

BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 8, 2020

The Board of Directors of Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation (BRMEMC) met in Regular Session on December 8, 2020. Board Chairman Ray Cook called the meeting to order at 6:05PM.

The invocation was led by Director Rogers, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Director Trull

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
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 & Accounting
Fred Gray, Director of Operations
Daniel Frizzell, Director of Engineering
Kelly Crawford, Manager of Communications
Sonny Mahan, Director of Member Services

Upon request of Chairman Cook, the Meeting Agenda for December 8, 2020 was considered. A motion to approve the Agenda was approved by unanimous vote upon Motion by Director Lance seconded by Director Rogers.

Upon request of Chairman Cook, the Minutes of the Board Meeting of November 10, 2020 were considered. A motion to approve the minutes was approved by unanimous vote upon Motion by Director Henson, seconded by Director Payne.

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

Director Payne presented the Finance Committee report of the Committee meeting of December 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. The committee also reviewed first quarter budget versus actual financial performance per a previous request of the Finance Committee.

Director Rogers presented the Policy and Public Relations Committee report of the committee meeting of December 8, 2020. The Committee reviewed the automatic annual adjustment to Policy 336 for costs relative to the Handy-Whitman adjustment, which was 9.26% for the most recent period. The charges and fees are automatically adjusted based on this index on January 1 of each year. While it does not require Board action to be adjusted, Staff brings this policy each year for review and signature from the Board President and Secretary.

The committee also continued work on Policy 528, but is not yet to a point of recommending changes to the full Board.

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

Erik Brinke and Amanda Holdaway provided the financial report.

Director of Operations Fred Gray gave an update on operations, safety and loss control.

Director of Engineering Daniel Frizzell gave an update on engineering and broadband. He stated that they had their first walk-thru of the Nottely substation today. Broadband net bills/accounts added was 144 for the month; we are on track to reach 10,000 fiber customers before the end of the year.

Director of Member Services Sonny Mahan gave an update on member services. Surge protection is down this time of year; but that's normal. A total of 8,963 customer service calls were taken during the month, with 2,181 walk-ins, and 1,465 FlexPay calls.

Erik Brinke provide the contact summary and report on economic development activity.

Brinke then discussed the red tape holding up the fiber build in Hanging Dog/Grape Creek area. We are currently unable to move forward due to the USDA's required archeological study requirements, and we have been waiting on movement for two years because this area contains sensitive archaeological assets.

BRMEMC did not win any RDOF reverse auction funding for unserved areas in need of broadband. BRMEMC became aware today that Space X/Elon Musk was awarded the majority of the areas in which we were interested.

Member Comments:

None

Old Business:

1. BRMEMC Sewer Easement

Brinke discussed a sewer easement at the old pole yard that requires some editing. Apparently, when the original easement was signed allowing the City of Young Harris to extend a sewer line at the edge of the property, the wrong property outline was used in the filing. No amendment has been filed with the Towns County Clerk of Court. Brinke asked if we need to make this change, but several Board members pointed out that the amended easement may be part of parcels that were recently sold to GDOT for road project. If this is the case, then no further work is required by BRMEMC. Attorney Autry will check further into this issue.

New Business:

1. 2020 ACRE Contributions

Many Board Members discussed that they did not participated in ACRE last year. Director Henson stated that he did donate to ACRE last year. Interim Manager Brinke presented information to the board on ACRE and GEMC PAC. Attorney Autry presented his take on both organizations. Brinke will follow up to confirm who paid last year's dues and who did not. Several Board members authorized their per diem to be used to cover this year's contribution to ACRE.

Director Report:

Director Cook spoke about his contact with Pat Malone at WJUL concerning receipt of Board Summaries during the period that our Board meetings remain closed to media and the public. The Board agreed to send Pat and other media outlets the summaries monthly. The board summary is also sent Shawn Jarrard at Towns County Herald/North Georgia News and Lorrie Ross at the Clay County Progress, as these are the media folks who normally attend meetings.

Manager Report:

Interim GM Brinke began by discussing the thank you notes he has received from the Town of Hayesville for the LED light project, as well as the help offered to HEMC during Hurricane Zeta. He also mentioned an article recognizing Mountain Electric Cooperative in two local newspapers recognizing that Co-op's assistance to BRMEMC during the same hurricane.

1. Cost Allocation Manual to Georgia PSC

BRMEMC's CAM was submitted to the Georgia PSC on Monday, November 16, and has been assigned Docket Number 43585. This CAM will be taken up by the PSC sometime in January, most likely.

2. Community Support Success

Round 2 of TVA Community Care fund has now been awarded bringing our total donated to local food banks during this calendar year (since the start of the pandemic) to \$50,000. Food banks in all five (5) counties received this funding. We would like to thank TVA and CoBank for partnering with our members to leverage these much-needed dollars for our

community. Kelly will work to send out the message locally about our efforts to support the food banks in the region.

3. Temporary Broadband Construction RFP

A notice of availability was released on Thursday, December 3, for the RFP for Temporary Broadband Construction assistance. The RFP will be available until the deadline for submission, which is December 31, 2020. The notice was published to social media, on our website and via local newspapers and radio stations. We have already seen tremendous response to the posting, with a good mix of local and non-local contractors.

4. Appraisal Update

Rick Parks continues his appraisal work at the old HQ. Both Jane Henson and Brinke have worked with Mr. Parks to gather requested data, including maps, easements, etc. Jane was able to identify an error in a previous easement filing, and we have corrected that error in the office of the Clerk of Court in Towns County.

5. Customer Service Review & Research Update

Director of Member Services Sonny Mahan has been conducting a comprehensive review of our call center and customer service performance, has been benchmarking these metrics against several other co-ops, and will recommend changes that will enhance our ability to deliver high-quality customer service. While this research and proposed improvements are not yet complete, we wanted you to see some of the progress already being made.

Other Business:

None

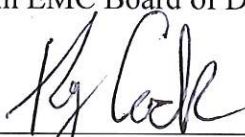
The board adjourned at 8:01PM before going into Executive Session

The Board exited Executive Session. With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM

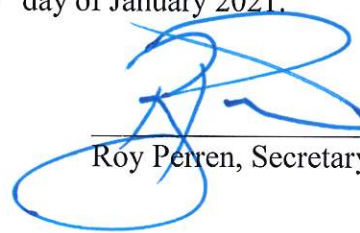
Respectfully submitted, this, the 11th day of January 2021.

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 December 2020, were approved in Regular Session of the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Board of Directors on the 19th day of January 2021.



Ray Cook, Board Chairman



Roy Perren, Secretary