

***Board of Directors Meeting
Piedmont Municipal Power Agency***

***April 14, 2023
Greer, South Carolina***

**VOTING
DIRECTORS
PRESENT:**

Blake Stone *	Abbeville
Tom Brooks *	Clinton
Andy Sevic *	Easley
Donnie Hardin *	Gaffney
Mike Richard *	Greer
John Young *	Laurens
Tim Baker *	Newberry
Jimmy Bagley *	Rock Hill
Joe Nichols *	Union
Kevin Bronson *	Westminster

OTHERS:

Tim Hall *	Abbeville
Ronnie Roth *	Clinton
Cory Cox *	Gaffney
Marc Regier *	Greer
Keith Wood *	Laurens
Foster Senn *	Newberry
Lance Davis *	Union
Brian Ramey *	Westminster
Andy Butcher	PMPA
Tracy Quinn	PMPA
JulieAnne London *	PMPA
Scotty Griffin	PMPA
Will Blanton	PMPA
Kenny Bradley	PMPA
Mike Frazier	PMPA
Gary Brunault *	GDS Associates, Inc.
Rion Foley *	Burr Forman
Andrea Kelley *	The Journal
Tom Gressette *	Walker Gressette Linton
Mark White *	Spencer & Spencer

* Virtual Attendance

Call to Order

Chairman Stone called the meeting to order.

Executive Session

Chairman Stone requested that the Board enter Executive Session to discuss the resignation of the general manager.

A motion was made by Mr. Brooks, seconded by Mr. Hardin, to enter Executive Session pursuant to Chairman Stone's request.
Motion passed 9 to 1, with Mr. Nichols dissenting.

The Board returned to Public Session.

**Selection of the next
General Manager**

Mr. Young indicated that the Board needed to move quickly on this issue and that there was someone already qualified to fill the vacancy of general manager. He stated that Mr. Joel Ledbetter was a native of South Carolina with 30 years of experience in electric utilities. Mr. Ledbetter is a Professional Engineer and has an MBA. He has served on the PMPA Board of Directors since 1991 and has served as Board Chairman numerous times. Mr. Ledbetter serves on the National APPA Board of Directors and is well respected in the General Assembly around the state and the country.

A motion was made by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Brooks, to name Mr. Ledbetter as the next general manager of PMPA with a starting salary of \$350,000, with a \$12,000 a year car allowance, and authorize the Board Chair to set a date of employment and execute all the necessary agreements to make this happen.

Mr. Richard indicated that he would not vote for any Participant to be the PMPA General Manager, regardless of who it is. He hopes that Mr. Ledbetter does a great job and gets the Members what they want to some degree.

Mr. Richard asked if this decision means that the Board does not see any other contract terms before it is executed.

Mr. Foley stated that according to the motion, the delegation had been made to the Chairman.

Mr. Richard also indicated that he had an issue with this process. It has never been done this way, with the Board not getting any insight into the contract.

Mr. Bagley said that he took issue with the Bylaws. He said it takes a five-day notice for a meeting. He also said that in the Joint Municipal Power Act, there is a section that indicates that the composition of the Executive Committee shall afford a fair representation of the member municipality. Mr. Bagley said he didn't feel PMPA had that today with the Executive Committee.

Mr. Bagley also states he hopes Mr. Ledbetter can be fair and unbiased. He also asked that, in the future, he hopes that PMPA can be a more transparent organization.

Mr. Bagley indicated that the rush to hire a new general manager makes him nervous.

Mr. Bagley recommended that Ms. London be the interim until this could go through the proper channels like you would any other major decision.

Mr. Nichols also stated that he couldn't support anyone off the Board as General Manager, especially someone who has sued PMPA and other members. He feels that Mr. Ledbetter will have a hard time representing all ten cities.

Mr. Brooks expressed to the Chairman that he would like the current contract with Mr. Butcher to be mirrored for Mr. Ledbetter with the changes in the salary and the car allowance as indicated in the motion.

Mr. Nichols stated that he had served on search committees, and it does take a lot of time and is expensive, but not allowing applicants to apply for the job is not ethically and immorally not correct.

Mr. Hardin stated the Board had gone through this process a year and a half ago, and he thinks that Mr. Ledbetter meets every qualification set at that time.

Mr. Nichols asked Mr. Foley if Easley would be allowed to vote. Mr. Foley said Easley could vote as long as the Director before this Board is not present.

Motion passed 7 to 3 with Messrs. Richard, Bagley, and Nichols dissenting.

**Participant Discussion
and Other Business**

Mr. Bagley asked that the information be passed along to Mr. Ledbetter about the transparency.

Mr. Bagley also asked that all future meetings be open to the participants, open to the public, and open to the membership. He believes PMPA is not meeting the state law according to Article 6-23-80 regarding Executive Committees, and there is not fair representation. He hopes that Mr. Ledbetter sticks to his word and fixes that.

Mr. Nichols inquired about the resignation process since Mr. Ledbetter is still on the PMPA Board and employed by another city.

Mr. Hardin stated that he understood that both parties plan to give a 90-day notice.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Butcher", written over a horizontal line.

Andy Butcher
General Manager/Secretary