

BOARD MEETING NOTES

THE BTU BOARD OF DIRECTORS MET ON THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016 AND DISCUSSED THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

OPERATIONS

Gary Miller presented the safety statistics for the previous month, stating BTU had no recordable incidents and one at fault vehicle incident for the month of February.

Mr. Miller distributed the March safety newsletter and stated that all employee training for the "Speak Up Listen Up" module had begun. The second Continuous Improvement Team has met and developed new processes for improving BTU's safety meetings and implemented a safety calendar to track and publicize all departments' scheduled safety meetings.

BTU ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Gary Miller presented the Annual Performance Report to the BTU Board of Directors, stating the information in the report was an overview of BTU's performance for Fiscal Year 2015.

Mr. Miller highlighted several items and noted that BTU has had steady growth in the City and Rural systems. In October, 2017, BTU will implement the third phase of an electric rate adjustment for the City and Rural Electric Systems. BTU bond ratings from Moody's, Standard and Poor's and Fitch remain unchanged from the previous year. BTU expenditures for the SmartBUSINESS and SmartHOME rebate programs had good participation and were successful.

TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION REPORT

The SAIDI (System Average Interruption Duration Index) and SAIFI (System Average Interruption Frequency Index) report for the month of February was presented. Mr. Trimble stated that February was a good SAIDI and SAIFI month and the significant outage which occurred in the City system was due to animal contact and in the Rural system was due to a blown fuse.



BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

205 East 28th Street • Bryan, TX 77803

email: ContactBTU@btutilities.com

www.btutilities.com

Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

 facebook.com/Bryan-Texas-Utilities

 twitter.com/BTU_BryanTX

Board of Directors

Mr. Paul Turney, Chairman
Mr. David Bairrington, Vice Chairman
Mr. Bill Ballard, Secretary
Mr. Buppy Simank, Ex-Officio
Mr. Carl L. Benner
Mr. Flynn Adcock
Mr. A. Bentley Nettles
Mr. Art Hughes

General Manager

Gary Miller

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Randy Trimble
David Werley

Division Managers

James Bodine
Bill Bullock
Shawndra Curry
Ken Lindberg
Vicki Reim
Scott Smith
James Tanneberger
Wes Williams

Doug Lyles, Chief Risk Officer

City of Bryan

Kean Register, City Manager
Joe Hegwood, CFO
Bernie Acre, CIO

Important Numbers

Billing/Collections/Connects	(979) 821-5700
Electrical Outage/Lines Down	(979) 822-3777
Distribution/Line Design	(979) 821-5770

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Working a 12-hour shift is not everyone's idea of the perfect job. But for BTU Energy Trader Mark McMurray, it's a great fit.

Mark began working for BTU in 2013 after having been an energy trader for 20 years.

"I was previously working in Austin. I visited Bryan and I really liked the town and the people," Mark said. "I like working for BTU because of the people I work with and the atmosphere. BTU really cares about their employees."

As an energy trader, Mark buys and sells energy to minimize the overall cost of energy to BTU. Using computer software and other analytical tools, such as meteorology reports, Mark decides when to buy energy at a low price before a situation causes the price of energy to rise.

Energy traders at BTU maintain a 24-hour, 7-days-per-week, every week of the year operation to properly monitor data that depicts prospective changes that may occur and influence the price of power.

Because of the constant need for energy trading, Mark works on a five-week rotating schedule with alternating nights. He works 12-hour shifts from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. or 5 p.m. to 5 a.m.

"I like working the 12-hour schedule," Mark said. "When my kids were growing up I was able to hang out with my family when the town wasn't crowded or busy."

After Mark's long work shifts, he enjoys spending time outside and with family.

"I like to hunt and fish," Mark said. "I also enjoy landscaping. I have a large extended family that I like to spend time with as well."



"I optimize energy costs to get the lowest possible price for BTU customers. I like that what I do directly impacts each customer."

New building, same philosophy:

STORY BY
KENNETH W. SMITH, JR.



THE NEW EMERGENCY & TRAUMA CENTER AT CHI ST. JOSEPH HEALTH REGIONAL HOSPITAL WILL BE STATE-OF-THE-ART. BUT WITHOUT A DYNAMIC TEAM TO STAFF IT, IT'S STILL JUST A BUILDING.

Very few people really enjoy having to visit a hospital emergency room. It usually means that something has gone wrong somewhere. And as the name implies, it's a situation that can't wait.

So you're visiting a place you'd really rather not. You're likely in some sort of pain or distress. You may or may not know where you are, or even who you are. And you may have been brought in via ambulance or helicopter. The last thing that you or your loved ones need to worry about is: "How long is it going to take to see a doctor?"

That's a key point of emphasis for the new Emergency Room opening this month at CHI St. Joseph Regional Health Center in Bryan.

"We wanted to build in some best practices that we're doing in patient flow and getting the patient to the doctor as quickly as possible," said Bev Welch, ER Director at CHI St. Joseph Health. "When the patient walks into the ER, we will get basic information from them and quickly lead them to a provider, whether that's a physician, nurse practitioner or advanced practice clinician. That goal, from the door to the bed and seeing the doctor, is less than 30 minutes. We're already running less than that right now. So we're expecting that time to even get shorter."

Welch described the state of the current ER and how the community has simply outgrown it over time.

"When I first started working here, we were a very small ER and we were geared

Provide the best care possible



The new ER will immediately have the capacity to see 75,000 patients a year, with growing room built in to expand to about 100,000 in the future.

to see about 5,000-6,000 [patients] a year," Welch said. "And of course, you know how Bryan's been growing. Currently in our ER, we're seeing about 55,000, which is about 20,000 over what we're bedded for. Moving to the new one, it's going to be nice."

The new ER will immediately have the capacity to see 75,000 patients a year, with growing room built in to expand to about 100,000 in the future. That's a huge increase in space. In fact, the new ER will be about twice the size of the current one with lots of enhancements built in.

While there will be lots of whiz-bang bells and whistles in the new ER, and it will be a state-of-the-art facility, that's not the only focus of the expansion.

MORE THAN JUST A NEW BUILDING

"When you talk about the growth of the ER and the experience the patient is going to have with this new ER, I think the one thing to keep in mind, and part of the reason why it was so easy to commit to such a large space, is the foundation that St. Joe's has put in the quality of the nurses, the quality of the doctors, and the amount of resources in trauma, neurosurgery, OB, general surgery, and orthopedics," said Ricardo Diaz, Chief Operating Officer for CHI St. Joseph Health.

"That truly is the foundation of what we're looking for. You can have a beautiful ER, but if you don't have access to great, incredible doctors you're going to get transferred anyway, right? So this provides a really nice structure for a lot of phenomenal doctors and staff, and that's really, I think, the soul of what this is providing or helping accentuate."

Ah yes, the doctors and the quality of the care. When you think about the gleaming new building and all those new facilities, you almost forget about them. Almost, but not quite. Without doctors and nurses and support staff, an ER is about as useful as a raincoat on a sunny day.

“This ER is going to bring a really broad the community, anywhere in Bryan, College

"You do all that recruitment and you bring in some great doctors, but you also don't forget the fact that customer service is really important," Diaz said. "So I think part of what this ER is going to bring is a really broad spectrum of care that nobody else in the community, anywhere in Bryan, College Station, or the surrounding area, really has."

Welch elaborated on the quality of the care at CHI St. Joseph Health and why it's so important.

"One of the things we've been working towards over the last several years is elevating the level of care and the level of services provided. And the goal in the end is that we don't want anyone to have to leave here to get care," Welch said. "And so a lot of these practices that we've been building are to keep that from happening. There are very few disease processes that we have to send out now."



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That trend continues with the new ER, as it will be the most advanced emergency room in the region, and the ER physicians are Board Certified emergency medicine physicians.

"There's a difference between a Board Certified physician and a Board Certified emergency physician," Welch said. "That's their specialty."

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BUT THE BUILDING ACTUALLY IS A BIG DEAL

No one will claim that the new ER won't be a great improvement. It will be the framework where the goals of superior care and treatment from the CHI St. Joseph Health staff will be able to be realized on a scale previously unattainable. And a lot of that comes down to design and planning.

The ER will have two trauma resuscitation suites with a trauma workroom in between. It's set up like an operating room so that the doctors can do whatever they need to in that room.

There will be three isolation rooms and new ways to deal with extremely serious diseases. "We can bring a patient in the back door, shower him, and put him straight into an isolation suite," Welch said. "That's not anything any ERs around here, that I know of, have. And that's to protect the public and to plan for the next Ebola event, or whichever new disease comes along."

There will be a separate suite for behavioral health, so that patients with special needs can have a specific place that is safe for them and other patients. And there are multiple rooms specifically designed with seniors in mind. They include things like non-skid floors and large print clocks.

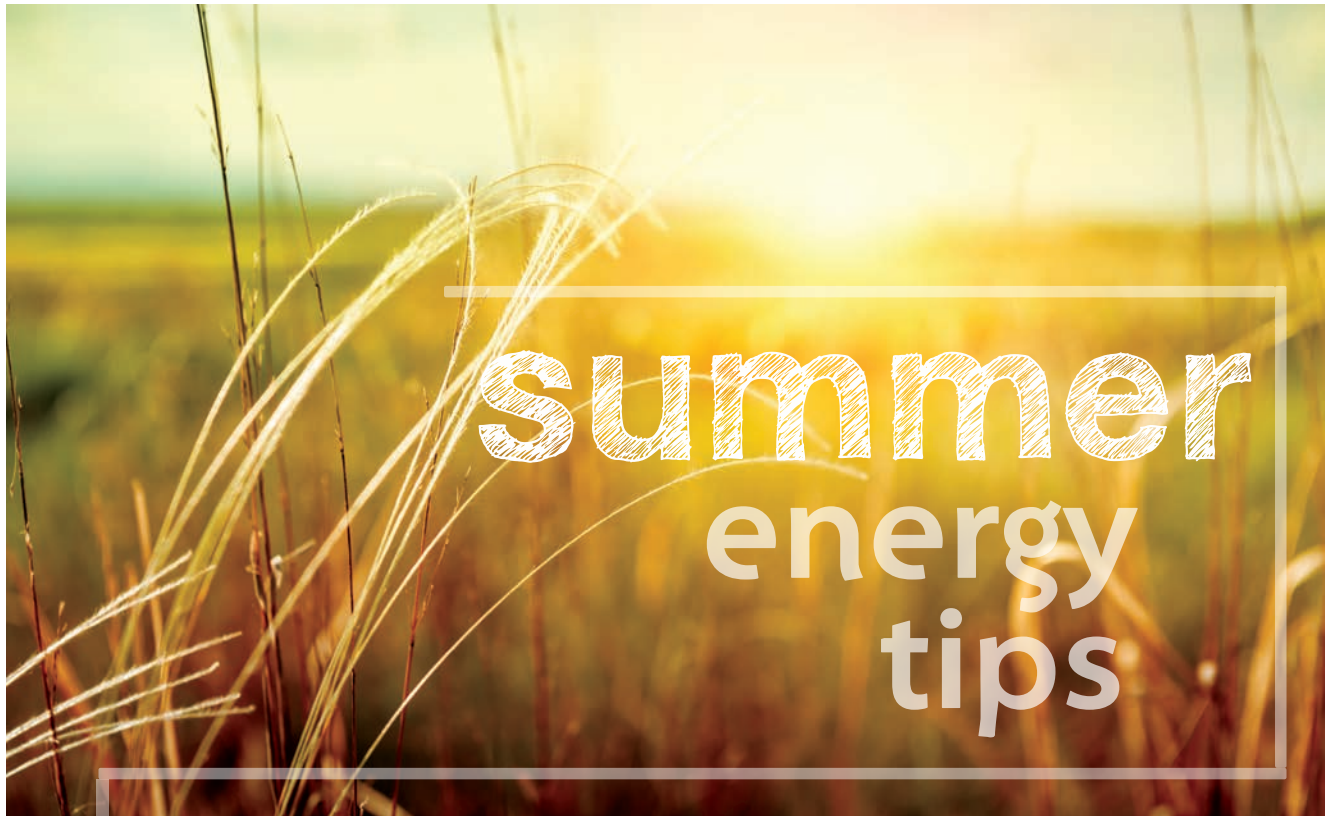
"The rooms were designed in a way that they're larger than the code minimum. That's for the evolution of medical equipment, different specialists and so forth. There's the bariatric component that we do have, and a geriatric component, and exam rooms to serve those needs," said Jeff Fox, the architect on the project. "We have two helipads on the rooftop. Then we have an ambulance bay that can accommodate, in a very traumatic situation, up to 8-to-10 emergency vehicles. I think there are some real smart design ideas. Inside and out, from an operational standpoint, the ER can be scalable.

THE NEW LOBBY AND THE WAITING ROOM WILL BE HUGE AND BRIGHT, AND AIRY. AND THE WAY THE PATIENT ROOMS ARE STRUCTURED, EVERY PATIENT ROOM WILL BE VISIBLE FROM A NURSE'S STATION, AND EVERY ROOM WILL HAVE A DOOR, PROVIDING A LEVEL OF PRIVACY NOT CURRENTLY ENJOYED.

ENERGY SAVING TOOLS

"We have LED lighting. We have high-efficiency boilers, chillers and electrical equipment, and occupancy sensors going into the rooms where it makes sense. We have fixtures that are low flow, including toilets that are low flow that meet current code or exceed current code," Fox said. "We've made sure that this is a very user-friendly environment. One example is, where we have exterior windows we have motorized MechoShades that will keep the heat gain to a minimum. It's to facilitate and encourage people to use those to keep the glare down, which is important not only for patients but also the caregiver."

So if you've never been to an emergency room before, or if you'd like to revisit one under better circumstances, CHI St. Joseph Health is holding an open house for the community on May 7, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The new CHI St. Joseph Health Regional Hospital's Emergency & Trauma Center opens for business on May 10.



KEEP THERMOSTAT SETTINGS AT A RECOMMENDED 78 DEGREES OR HIGHER.

Ceiling fans or oscillating fans help you feel cooler and use very little electricity.

CLOSE DOORS LEADING TO UNCOOLED PARTS OF YOUR HOME.

If you have central air conditioning, close vents and doors to unused rooms.

SEAL HOLES AND CRACKS AROUND DOORS AND WINDOWS.

Eliminate air leaks around window air conditioners with foam insulation or weather-stripping.

TAKE SHORTER AND COOLER SHOWERS.

Not only will you use less water, but also you'll feel better in the Texas heat with a cooler shower.

TURN OFF POWER SOURCES.

TVs, computers and other electronic devices draw power when they are in standby mode or turned off but still plugged in. Plug electronics into power strips and turn off the power when the items are not in use.

CLOSE BLINDS, SHADES AND DRAPERIES FACING THE SUN.

Keep out the sun's heat and help fans and air conditioners cool more efficiently.

GET OUT OF THE HOUSE AND INTO THE POOL OR PARK.

Take advantage of the 40+ parks and aquatic facilities that Bryan has to offer. The pools and pavilions will cool you off from the summer activities.

SPEND LESS TIME IN THE KITCHEN.

Use a microwave, toaster oven or outdoor grill instead of the oven. This keeps your kitchen cooler and uses less energy, too.

CITY OF BRYAN

“LUNCH and LEARN” SEMINARS

Learn more about your local government through our new “Lunch and Learn” series of seminars.

Have you ever wondered how potholes are repaired or how the City of Bryan prepares its budget or decides where a park should be located?

Now's your chance to learn more about how the City of Bryan works and get to know your government!

These monthly presentations will cover various topics related to the operations of the City of Bryan, and will help improve citizens' understanding of city government and the role they can play in the government system.

At these classes a light lunch will be provided and participants will hear presentations from representatives of more than 20 city departments. “Lunch and Learn” is free, and you do not have to be a resident of the City of Bryan to attend. But advance registration is required, and each course is limited to the first 50 applicants due to limited seating.



Pictured: Joe Hegwood, City of Bryan Chief Financial Officer, at the first Lunch and Learn Series held on February 24 - “Municipal Finance 101: Numbers and Nachos”.

June Seminar: Public Works

July Seminar: Parks & Recreation

Come join us! Register (and view video of previous sessions) at bryantx.gov/lunchandlearn