

REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS *Meeting Notes*

August 13, 2018

Recommendation of the Fiscal Year 2019 City and Rural Budget to the Bryan City Council

Mr. Joe Hegwood, Chief Financial Officer, presented the FY19 BTU Budget as well as a resolution recommending approval of the budget to the Bryan City Council. The Board unanimously approved the recommendation to City Council.

Recommendation of a Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2018 to the Bryan City Council

Mr. Hegwood presented a resolution recommending that the Bryan City Council increase BTU's City Budget by \$10,000,000 to a total of \$184,992,101, and the Rural Budget by \$5,000,000 to a total of \$52,268,865. The City increase is necessary due to the higher volume of wholesale power costs to supply higher than budgeted power sales. The Rural increase is necessary due to an overall higher wholesale base and higher fuel costs, leading to greater than budgeted retail sales. This is attributed to higher overall growth in the Rural system as well as summer and winter weather extremes. The Board unanimously approved the recommendation.

Consideration to Approve a Materials Purchase and Warehouse Operations Agreement with Texas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

Mr. Hegwood presented a recommendation to enter into a five-year agreement with Texas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (TEC) for the supply of Transmission and Distribution materials, as well as operation of the BTU Warehouse. This recommendation is based on an analysis of responses submitted during the bid processes, and a determination that TEC provides the best value. The Board unanimously approved the agreement.

Consideration to Approve a Revised Pole Attachment License Agreement

Mr. Randy Trimble, Executive Director of Energy Delivery, presented a revised Pole Attachment License Agreement based on changes in Texas law, as well as increasing and varied demands of pole use by communications providers in Bryan-College Station. Mr. Trimble explained that this updated version of the agreement would help to ensure that BTU and all communication providers attaching to BTU poles comply with all applicable laws, standards, regulations, policies, and ordinances. The Board unanimously approved the revised agreement.

SOCIAL MEDIA



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Hours of Operation
Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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CITY OF BRYAN

Kean Register, City Manager
Joe Hegwood, Chief Financial Officer
Bernie Acre, Chief Information Officer

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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



BRYAN CITY MANAGER
KEAN REGISTER

Named Texas Public Power Association President

Bryan City Manager Kean Register was recently named President of the Texas Public Power Association (TPPA), an organization that represents the interests of more than 72 public power providers across Texas including municipally-owned electric utilities, river authorities, joint action agencies, and a number of electric cooperatives. As President of TPPA, Mr. Register will serve a one year term, representing publicly-owned utility providers at the state and national levels.

In the past six years as a TPPA board member, Mr. Register served as both Secretary and Vice President, and assumed his new role as TPPA President on July 25, 2018. Prior to his seven-year tenure as Bryan City Manager, Mr. Register worked in the energy industry for twenty-five years including both investor and municipally-owned electric utilities. His experience in electric and natural gas utilities coupled with his time as a City Manager made him an ideal candidate for this role.

"BTU is the fifth largest publicly-owned electric service provider in the state of Texas," shares City Manager Kean Register. "Our membership and active involvement in TPPA provides important

networking opportunities to protect the best interests of our customers, our citizens." As a publicly-owned utility, BTU has the unique ability to make important decisions to best serve the community while maintaining competitive rates and providing reliable electric service.

About TPPA

Formed in 1978, TPPA provides resources, training opportunities, and technical assistance while leading legislative discussion to protect the best interests of public power providers and their customers. Together, municipally-owned utilities provide electric service to more than five million Texans, accounting for 15 percent of the state's retail electric customers. Additional information about the organization is available at tppa.com.



NOT FOR THE TIMID OR FAINT OF HEART

If you think you'd like hanging from a pole by your belt 50 feet in the air, with no net, while carrying an extra 40 pounds of tools, many times in hot, cold or otherwise awful weather, while also handling wires carrying enough electricity through them to light up an entire office building or neighborhood, then being an electrical lineman may be just the job for you. But it's certainly not a job for the faint of heart.

BTU linemen are some of the utility's "first responders." When the lights go out, they go into action — day or night, during a tropical storm, a winter blizzard, or triple-digit August temperatures.

A lineman's education and training have obviously come a long way since young men began stringing lines on telegraph poles 150 years ago, linking the communication of America's towns and cities. Working on telegraph poles was a dangerous occupation, and many young men broke bones in falls, far from any medical care.

But the telegraph lines didn't carry tens of thousands of volts like the electric lines of today. First and foremost in the minds of today's linemen is safety: at the end of the day, you want everyone on your crew to go home uninjured. That is at the root of a lineman's training.

So, what does it take to become a lineman? First, there needs to be a personal interest in serving the citizens, because that's what a lineman does. That motivation to serve will help get the future lineman through a fairly rigorous academic program. Texas State Technical College in Waco has two programs for electrical linemen: a certificate program of 36 credits, which takes 12 months to complete, and an Electrical Lineworker Associate's degree program, with 60 credits taking 20 months to complete. (The associate's degree has several general education courses in addition to the line worker courses of the certificate program.)

Another option for the hopeful lineman is the recently opened Lineman Academy, a program offered through a joint effort of the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) and Blinn College. The 480-hour class lasts for 15 weeks and qualifies the student to apply for an apprenticeship as an electrical line worker. Texas State Technical College (TSTC) also has a similar program.

ELECTRICAL LINEMAN **CURRICULUM** *(three credits each)*

- Electrical Calculations
- Climbing Skills
- Distribution Operations
- Line Skill Fundamentals
- Special Topics in Lineworker
- DC Circuits
- Live Line Safety
- Distribution Line Construction
- OSHA Regulations
- Transformer Connections
- Troubleshooting Distribution Systems
- Residential Wiring
- Rigging and Conveying Systems
- Power Transmission Installation

Texas employs more electrical linemen than any other state. There are many electrical linemen programs in the U.S.—but most of the BTU crews are “home grown.” And the linemen that make up the five overhead, four underground, and seven service crews (typically, four members make up a crew) are mostly from the Brazos Valley and surrounding areas.

But it is drawing on the experience of existing linemen that is a main key to a new lineman's training – the experience that the journeyman electrical lineman, a senior position, has to offer a new apprentice lineman. Every lineman begins as an apprentice. No matter the certificate or degree program, it's the on-the-job training by a seasoned journeyman lineman that is the essential part of success on the job.

“At BTU, we are proud to have a highly-trained group of linemen serving our customers every day,” said Randy Trimble, Executive Director of Energy Delivery. “They work hard at all hours of the day and night to keep our system operating, and also spend a tremendous amount of time training our apprentice linemen.”

Our expanding population and burgeoning residential and commercial construction has placed a huge demand on electric utilities to expand and maintain their electric facilities, nowhere more evident than the Brazos Valley. Whether overhead or underground, new distribution lines are better constructed with better materials than ever, but maintenance of older lines and disastrous weather compete with the installation of new lines.

Almost every day, an emergency occurs—a large tree limb severs a line, a car collides into a pole. And every day, BTU linemen are ready for the unexpected.

BTU is thankful that our linemen play an important role in keeping our community strong. We appreciate all the long hours they sometimes work and the risks they take every day to help keep the lights on. We also recognize and honor them for their commitment to respond safely and quickly when crisis or disaster hits.

RECOGNIZING BTU STAFF FOR THEIR SERVICE

The annual BTU employee banquet is an opportunity to celebrate the years of service employees have dedicated to our customers. This year, 30 employees were recognized for between 5 and 35 years of service.

Congratulations to all of our award recipients and thank you for your years of dedicated service to our customers.



Michael McMillan
35 Years



John Moore
35 Years



John Eiman
25 Years



Mark Kuder
25 Years



Robert Wilkins
20 Years



Mike Connor
15 Years



Lien Ha
15 Years



Steven Stilson
15 Years



Darryel Kelly
10 Years



Sean Scamardo
10 Years



Brandon Welch
10 Years



Ray Berger
5 Years



Darius Gray
5 Years



Mark McMurray
5 Years



Kristi Nash
5 Years



Jonathan Nobles
5 Years



Elisabeth Reyes
5 Years



Stephen Sutphen
5 Years



Fernando Vega
5 Years

NOT PICTURED:

Tommy Zgabay 35 Years
Randy Snyder 30 Years
Chris Callaway 20 Years
Austin Paul 10 Years
Mark Robertson 10 Years

Clinton Seal 10 Years
Crystal McGee 5 Years
Ricardo Pantoja 5 Years
William Springer 5 Years
Kevin Wuneburger 5 Years



Breast Cancer *Awareness*

Throughout the month of October, you may see Bryan Texas Utilities' crews and staff wearing pink hats and shirts in support of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, celebrated to raise recognition of the disease and promote research and bonding between those affected. BTU has pledged to donate funds each year to aid in the search for a cure. BTU employees have purchased hats designed with the pink ribbon for a \$10 donation each year since 2014 to be contributed to the cause. BTU matches each donation dollar for dollar, with a total of \$6,500 since 2014.

BTU reminds the public to undergo regular self-exams and medical screenings to ensure early detection. According to the American Cancer Society, more than 260,000 new cases will be diagnosed this year, and there are currently more than 3 million survivors nationwide. Join us in supporting the search for a cure this October and always.



CITY OF BRYAN AND BRYAN ISD

Recognized for Career and Technical Education Partnership

Bryan ISD administrators, as well as City of Bryan leaders, received major awards at the annual Career and Technical Association of Texas (CTAT) summer conference. CTAT is the state-level organization that represents administrative and guidance professionals who work directly with Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers and students.



Mayor Andrew Nelson, Superintendent Christie Whitbeck & Bobby Gutierrez

Dr. Christie Whitbeck, Bryan ISD Superintendent, was awarded the CTAT Champion of the Year. The Champion of the Year recognizes individuals who contribute to the improvement, promotion, development and progress of CTE goals.

Dr. Whitbeck won the award for collaborating with city and county leaders to seek out and purchase land – and eventually an existing facility – to expand Bryan ISD’s CTE program to meet students’ needs. Whitbeck worked with the Board of Trustees to approve the purchase, which is a financially sound investment for students’ futures. The Center will open for the 2019-2020 school year.

“I am honored to receive this award on behalf of the District’s efforts,” Dr. Whitbeck said. “We are all committed to ensuring that our students have quality CTE programs that will help them gain certifications and education that will propel them into their careers or higher education pursuits.”

Whitbeck has a proven passion and focus for CTE programs as she led efforts to build facilities or expand CTE opportunities for students in her previous school districts.



Kevin Ross & Family

Kevin Ross, CTE Coordinator, was named the CTAT CTE Administrator of the Year, which recognizes administrative CTE professionals at the state level who have demonstrated leadership in ensuring teacher and student success. Ross was recognized for making significant contributions toward innovative, unique and effective CTE programs.

“I’m honored to be recognized for doing what I love,” Ross said. “I work with an incredible team, and we are all focused on putting the programs and resources in place for our students to succeed.”

Two Bryan ISD partners also won awards at the conference. City of Bryan Mayor Andrew Nelson, along with the Bryan City Council, were recognized as the CTAT Business of the Year. When the need for a new Bryan ISD CTE center arose, the City of Bryan stepped up with the perfect solution in the form of a former manufacturing facility. The site offered facilities that included classrooms, as well as a large manufacturing space that could be easily adapted to the programs in need.

Business owner and community leader Bobby Gutierrez was recognized as the CTAT Business Leader of the Year. As part of the CTE Advisory Committee, Gutierrez immediately began searching for viable CTE center alternatives and was instrumental in the purchase of the new site. The new center offers expansion opportunities that will allow Bryan ISD to serve surrounding communities that do not have the means to offer or support certain CTE programs.