

## **TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

St. Matthews, South Carolina

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

February 24, 2022

Pursuant to due notice thereof, a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc. (hereinafter called the "Cooperative") was held on February 24, 2022 at the Headquarters Office in St. Matthews, South Carolina. In order to comply with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidance of social distancing due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreaks, the meeting took place in the Auditorium.

The following trustees were present: Ida L. Dixon, Barbara F. Weston, S. George Wilson, Gary F. Geiger, F. Joe Strickland, Jr., William Robinson, James R. Dantzler, Willie Jeffries, and Jacqueline S. Shaw. Also present were Chad T. Lowder, CEO, John G. Felder, Sr., General Counsel, Frank Furtick, VP of Engineering and Operations, Michael Weeks, VP of Finance and Administration, Kristen Zeigler, VP of Human Resources, Wilford Thompson, VP of Member Services, Keith Scharf, VP of Safety and Loss Control, and Cindy Sarratt, who recorded the minutes of the meeting.

### **CALL TO ORDER – INVOCATION**

The meeting was called to order by President Barbara F. Weston at 6:00 p.m. Following the Call to Order, Gary Geiger gave the Invocation.

### **MEMBER COMMENT PERIOD**

During the member comment period, a member addressed the board to complain about the length of time it took for a service to be built. The CEO responded with an apology and assurance that the issue was addressed. The President thanked the member for coming to present his comments and urged him to contact the CEO directly if he experiences any further issues.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 27, 2022**

On motion by Jim Dantzler, seconded by Willie Jeffries, and carried, the minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting of January 27, 2022 were approved.

## **REPORTS**

### **SYSTEM SUMMARY REPORTS AND MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The System Summary Reports and Monthly Financial Statements were not available due to the pending Annual Audit. An unaudited draft was presented. Mr. Lowder informed the board that he will bring forth a Resolution for Revenue Deferral at the March Board Meeting.

### **NEW MEMBER REPORT**

The CEO reported that 74 new members made application for service in January 2022 and those new members are now actively receiving electric service from the Cooperative. Thereafter, on motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by Joe Strickland, and carried, the following resolution was approved:

RESOLVED, the applications of new members are hereby accepted and approved.

### **SAFETY REPORT**

The CEO reported that there were no lost time accidents, no hours lost, no OSHA recordable accidents, no employee injuries, no consumer damage claims, and no miscellaneous accidents filed in January 2022. One vehicle accident was reported when a vehicle slid on ice during the recent winter storm.

### **REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Barbara Weston reported that the Audit Committee met on February 24, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. and reviewed expense accounts and credit card invoices for all board members, the CEO, and the Attorney for January 2022. All accounts were found to be in order and were approved by the Audit Committee.

## **UPDATES**

### **CENTRAL UPDATE**

Mr. Lowder showed two videos and further discussed the topics presented at the Central Forums held earlier this month in Greenville and Charleston.

### **STATEWIDE UPDATE**

In his Statewide Update, Mr. Lowder reported the following:

The *South Carolina Living* articles are posted on BoardPaq, the cost for the magazine is increasing by one cent, they are working on legislation to allow ECSC to offer CDL training, there is legislation in the House and Senate to release ARPA funds for fiber, Newberry Co-op has asked ECSC to appeal DOR ruling on downloader software, the lineperson's rodeo will be held

on March 26<sup>th</sup> at Horry Co-op (one crew and three apprentice linemen from Tri-County will participate), the Washington Legislative Conference will be held May 1-3, and S. C. State University has a group in the Pay It Forward Competition.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

Mr. Lowder reported that Premium Peanut will start construction in April 2022. It will be a \$60 million investment and will employ 100 people. The load will be around six megawatts. Mr. Lowder then explained how the Cooperative's UTC dollars will be allocated.

#### **FIBER TO THE HOME PROJECT UPDATE**

Mr. Lowder reported that the make ready engineering drawings and design for the entire system are now complete. Other updates will be given at the TriCoLink Board Meeting.

#### **MONTHLY OUTAGE REPORT**

For this report, Mr. Lowder went through storm preparedness. He explained the time line of events leading up to and during a major storm, followed by storm restoration procedures.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **CFC VOTING DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE**

On motion by William Robinson, seconded by Joe Strickland, and carried, Chad Lowder was elected Voting Delegate and Gary Geiger was elected Alternate Voting Delegate.

#### **REPORT OF BYLAWS, POLICIES, AND SERVICE RULES COMMITTEE**

Committee Chairman, William Robinson, reported that the Committee met on Monday, February 21 to discuss the revision of Policy #302 and the addition of new Policy #106 due to FCC regulations regarding consumer protection. The board approved the policies as presented and approved by the Committee.

#### **ECSC SUMMER CONFERENCE**

The Trustees were informed of the dates of the ECSC Summer Conference (June 6-8) and asked to complete an informational check list for registration purposes.

**SC TRUSTEE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE**

The Trustees were informed of the dates of the SC Trustee Association Conference (Apr. 18-20) and asked to complete an informational check list for registration purposes.

**BAD DEBT WRITE OFFS FOR 2021**

After some discussion, on motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by Willie Jeffries, and carried, bad debts for 2021 in the amount of \$95,531 were written off.

**CEO COMMENTS**

**SANTEE PROPERTY UPDATE**

The CEO reported that Dr. Kenneth Shuler from Santee Animal Hospital is interested in purchasing 2 acres out of the Cooperative's 10-acre tract in Santee. After some discussion, on motion by William Robinson, seconded by Jim Dantzler, and carried, the board authorized the CEO to move forward with getting the property appraised.

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES UPDATE**

The CEO gave a Strategic Objectives Update.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by Jim Dantzler, and carried, the board entered executive session to discuss a confidential economic development announcement. Then, on motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the board returned to regular session after having taken no action in executive session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on motion by William Robinson, seconded by Gary Geiger, and carried, the board adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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Jacqueline S. Shaw, Secretary

APPROVED:

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Barbara F. Weston, President