

TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

St. Matthews, South Carolina
Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting
December 17, 2020

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 December 17, 2020. 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 by teleconference via GoToMeeting.

The following trustees were present: Ida L. Dixon, Barbara F. Weston, S. George Wilson, Gary F. Geiger, F. Joe Strickland, Jr., Willie E. Jeffries, William Robinson, James R. Dantzler, and Jacqueline S. Shaw, these being all of the trustees of the Cooperative. Also present were Chad T. Lowder, CEO, John G. Felder, Sr., General Counsel, Frank Furtick, COO, Michael Weeks, CAO, 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 4:00 p.m. Following the Call to Order, Ida Dixon gave the Invocation.

MEMBER COMMENT PERIOD

There were no members present or online during the Member Comment Period.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OF November 21, 2020

On motion by Jim Dantzler, seconded by Willie Jeffries and carried, the minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting of November 21, 2020 were approved.

REPORTS

SYSTEM SUMMARY REPORTS

The System Summary Reports were approved as presented by the CEO.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Monthly Financial Statements were approved as presented by the CEO.

SAFETY REPORT

The CEO reported that there were no lost time accidents, no hours lost, no OSHA Recordable accidents, and no employee injuries reported in November 2020. The CEO explained there were two vehicle accidents: one was a backing accident and the other involved a vehicle clipping a pole, both accidents were minor. One consumer damage claim was filed when a pole broke and hit a consumer's porch. This claim is under investigation and the claim was filed with Federated.

REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

Barbara Weston reported that the Committee met on December 20, 2020 and reviewed the expense reports and credit card invoices for the Board, CEO, and Attorney for the period November 1-30, 2020. All accounts were approved by the Audit Committee. The Committee requested that TriCoLink expenses be separated from Tri-County Electric Cooperative expenses.

OPERATION ROUND UP REPORT OF DECEMBER 7, 2020 BOARD MEETING

Chad Lowder reported that the report of the December 7th Operation Round Up meeting is listed in BoardPaq, showing the grants awarded. Some concern was expressed that more grants are given to individuals from Richland County than other areas. Mr. Lowder explained several reasons for this and urged anyone who knows of individuals or agencies needing assistance to please let them know about the program.

UPDATES

CENTRAL UPDATE

The Office of Regulatory Staff provided Central with Notification that, after examination of Central's compliance with S. C. Code 33-49-615, regarding disclosures of compensation or benefits provided for board of trustee members, Central is in compliance.

Chad Lowder also briefed the board concerning Marlboro Electric Co-op's buyout offer. In addition, the Santee Cooper situation will resume in the new Legislative Session.

STATEWIDE UPDATE

The CEO posted a notice from the Office of Regulatory Staff in BoardPaq that indicated that Tri-County Electric Cooperative was examined and found to be in compliance with S. C. Code 33-49-150, regarding disclosure of board member compensation and benefits for the 2019 calendar year.

The articles that will appear in the January 2021 edition of *South Carolina Living* were posted in BoardPaq.

NEW BUSINESS

TRICO GLOBAL INDUSTRIAL SITE UPDATE

Chad Lowder reported that there is a little delay on the wastewater, but it should be finished, including natural gas, in March. The Engineering and Permitting of a new entrance road will be the next thing to handle.

RICHLAND DISTRICT OFFICE REMODEL STATUS

The CEO reported that the remodeling of the Richland District Office has been completed. TriCoLink employees will begin working out of there after the 1st of the year.

FIBER TO THE HOME PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Lowder announced that a Project Chart and a Progress Report are posted on BoardPaq. He will give further information at the TriCoLink board meeting immediately following the Tri-County Electric Cooperative board meeting.

RETIREMENT RESOLUTION FOR WILLIAM HAIGLER

On motion by Joe Strickland, seconded by Jackie Shaw, and carried, the following resolution was approved:

Whereas, WILLIAM T. HAIGLER, JR. has contributed his time and talents in support of the goals and objectives of Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc., providing thirty-one years and thirty-one days of faithful and dedicated service to Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc. and its members, and it is through his skills and devotion to the Cooperative that the rural members have benefited, and

Whereas, The Board of Trustees of Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc. hereby acknowledges the long and faithful service of WILLIAM T. HAIGLER, JR. to Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Whereas, The Board of Trustees and his fellow employees will miss the friendship and wisdom of WILLIAM T. HAIGLER, JR.;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc. takes this means to express their thanks and appreciation to WILLIAM T. HAIGLER, JR. for his many years of loyal and dedicated service to Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc.;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that WILLIAM T. HAIGLER, JR. is wished much happiness and success upon his retirement and in his future endeavors.

RETIREMENT RESOLUTION FOR CHARLENE ANDERSON

On motion by William Robinson, seconded by Joe Strickland, and carried, the following resolution was approved:

Whereas, CHARLENE J. ANDERSON has contributed her time and talents in support of the goals and objectives of Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc., providing Thirty-seven years of faithful and dedicated service to Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc. and its members, and it is through her skills and devotion to the Cooperative that the rural members have benefited, and

Whereas, The Board of Trustees of Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc. hereby acknowledges the long and faithful service of CHARLENE J. ANDERSON to Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Whereas, The Board of Trustees and her fellow employees will miss the friendship and wisdom of CHARLENE J. ANDERSON;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc. takes this means to express their thanks and appreciation to CHARLENE J. ANDERSON for her many years of loyal and dedicated service to Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc.;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CHARLENE J. ANDERSON is wished much happiness and success upon her retirement and in her future endeavors.

APPROVAL OF 2021 OPERATING PLAN AND BUDGET

After a thorough explanation and discussion, on motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by William Robinson, and carried, the 2021 Operating Plan and Budget was approved.

ELECTION OF TRUSTEES AND VOTING DELEGATES TO ECSC, CEEUS, AND LESCO

On motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by Joe Strickland, and carried, William Robinson and Chad Lowder were elected as Trustees to ECSC, CEEUS, and LESCO; and Chad Lowder was elected Voting Delegate and William Robinson was elected Alternate Voting Delegate to ECSC, CEEUS, and LESCO.

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ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE CENTRAL ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE 2021 ANNUAL MEETING

On motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by Joe Strickland, and carried, Chad Lowder and Barbara Weston were elected as delegates to the Central Electric Power Cooperative 2021 Annual Meeting and as trustees to serve on Central's Board.

2020 ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

Chad Lowder announced that 1,974 members registered at the 2020 Annual Meeting.

Everyone agreed that it was handled well and that great comments were received from the members.

There was then a discussion of the fact that there are numerous Annual Meeting registration gifts from years past in the warehouse. The board will come back with ideas on how to donate them at the January board meeting.

CEO COMMENTS

SANTEE COOPER SETTLEMENT

Chad Lowder reported that the Cooperative received \$8,000 in the Santee Cooper settlement. The money was spent as follows: \$2,000 to Toys for Tots, \$3,000 to Harvest Hope Food Bank, and \$3,000 to the Samaritan House in Orangeburg.

CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS

The CEO reported that Capital Credit checks are being processed today and will be mailed tomorrow.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Willie Jeffries, seconded by Gary Geiger, and carried, the board entered executive session to receive legal advice. Then, on motion by George Wilson, seconded by Willie Jeffries, and carried, the board returned to regular session with no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by Jackie Shaw, and carried, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Jacqueline S. Shaw, Secretary

APPROVED:

Barbara F. Weston, President