

REGULAR MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

February 22, 2021

A regular meeting of the members of the Board of Trustees of Fairfield Electric Cooperative, Inc., was held on Monday, February 22, 2021, at 12:30 p.m. at the cooperative headquarters in Blythewood, South Carolina. The following board members were present:

Mitchell D. Rabon	Robert Entzminger	Peggy D. Swearingen
Timothy L. Hopkins	Cynthia Able	Derial L. Ogburn
Donald Keith Lewis	John E. Roberts, III	Robert K. Miles
Joseph E. Sharpe	William C. Good	

Attorney Ken DuBose was present.

President Mitch Rabon called the meeting to order and Robert Entzminger gave the invocation.

President Rabon reported the 2020 audit has not been completed and will be presented to the Audit Committee prior to presentation to the full board. Scott McClelland and Michelle Jones with Elliott Davis will be rescheduled for the March meeting for presenting the 2020 audit to the board.

Steve Davidson, Vice President of Information Technology, provided technical assistance and user training for NRECA's upcoming virtual annual meeting.

Upon motion made by John E. Roberts, III, seconded by Derial L. Ogburn, motion carried, the minutes of the meeting held on January 25, 2021, were approved as presented.

Upon motion made by Timothy L. Hopkins, seconded by Cynthia Able, motion carried, 235 new consumers for the month of January were accepted as members of Fairfield Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A list of delinquent accounts totaling \$1,903.56 for the month of January was presented for consideration for write off as uncollectible. Upon motion made by John E. Roberts, III, seconded by Donald Keith Lewis, motion carried, authorization was granted to write these off against the cooperative's reserve for uncollectible accounts.

Bruce Bacon, Chief Executive Officer, reported the monthly financial reports will be sent to board members when available.

Bruce Bacon reported Operation Round Up's board met Monday, February 15th, and made donations to four needy families, the Richburg Fire Department, GRASP, CAB, and Bridge Builders for wheel chair ramp materials.

MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD CONTINUED

February 22, 2021

Bruce Bacon reported seven new security systems were installed, three systems were converted from other companies, and forty eight service calls were completed during January.

Bruce Bacon reminded board members the updated 2021 Service Policy Manual will be an agenda item for approval at the next board meeting.

Bruce Bacon reported NRECA's Legislative Conference in Washington has been cancelled due to COVID 19 concerns and advised a virtual event is being planned.

Bruce Bacon provided an update on received board candidate information packages for the Nominating Committee to consider for the 2021 Annual Meeting elections for Districts 1, 2, and 3.

Bruce Bacon shared an administrative budget comparison for the last five years with the board.

Bruce Bacon reported a Founders Day celebration is being planned for June 8th.

Peggy Swearingen discussed possibly purchasing water heaters at wholesale from a wholesale distributor instead of purchasing at retail from Lowes. The goal is to keep the costs down. Administration is to explore costs savings by purchasing at wholesale.

Trustees and voting delegates for CRC (Cooperative Response Center) for 2021 were presented for consideration. Upon motion made by Joseph E. Sharpe, seconded by Donald Keith Lewis, motion carried, Bruce Bacon and Mitch Rabon were appointed trustees with Bruce Bacon being the voting delegate and Mitch Rabon being the alternate.

Appointments to the Credential and Election Committee were reviewed and discussed. Upon motion made by Donald Keith Lewis, seconded by Peggy D. Swearingen, motion carried, the following members were appointed for 2021: James L. Jackson, Jr., Willie Belton, Jim Stroman, June Blume, Sarah Coleman, George Harris, Lou Ann Coleman, Tommy Raines, John Trapp, Heyward Mattox, Neysa Rimer, William Robinson, Randy Frick, Wilbure Savage, Cathy Washington, Al Bozard, Sheila Bracey, Ben Connell, and Francis Jane Wright. Joe Sharpe, John Roberts, and William Good recused themselves from the discussion and from voting.

MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD CONTINUED

February 22, 2021

The following members were appointed to the Member Advisory Committee for 2021 upon motion made by Derial L. Ogburn, seconded by Peggy D. Swearingen, motion carried: June Blume, Randy Frick, Billy & Melissa Purvis, Ed & Gerri Cooper, Tim & Mary Beth McSwain, William & Wendy Robinson, Napoleon Moore, Derrick Stanley, Ruby Carter, Katherine Dixon, Willie & Pat Belton, Norman & Iola Nelson, George & Willie Mae Harris, Floyd & Sheila Bracey, Stanley & Cathy Washington, Lloyd Qualls, Lonnie Campbell & Wanda Carnes, Tommy & Kathy Raines, Carol C. Turner, John & Rosetta Trapp, Carl & Mary Payne, J.C. & Patricia Trapp, Wilbure & Eleanor Savage, John Hancock, Heyward & Dee Mattox, William Coleman, Dr. & Mrs. Harmon Patrick, Calvin Jay & Nancy Smith, James Richardson, Jim Stroman, Sarah Coleman, Lou Ann Coleman, Ed Jones, Bill & Dixie Schott, Joseph & Kristin Connell, Thomas & Patricia Nelson, Anthony Reynolds, Joe & Anne Melanson, Pansy Bell, Eukie & Pamela Bozard, Francis Jane Wright, Thomas & Robin Beam, James & Linda Jackson, Joseph & Lori James, Steve & Gail Rogers, and Neysa Rimer.

NRECA's upcoming virtual annual meeting was discussed and upon motion made by Timothy L. Hopkins, seconded by Cynthia Able, motion carried, the following were authorized to participate virtually: Mitch Rabon, Robert Entzminger, Keith Lewis, Joe Sharpe, Peggy Swearingen, Tim Hopkins, Cynthia Able, and Derial Ogburn.

Cynthia Able provided an update on behalf of the Benefit Review Committee and reported a committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 25th, at 10:00 a.m. at the cooperative's Blythewood Office. Morgan Armstrong and Suzanne Corey, consultants with Plan Benefits Services, will also attend the committee meeting. Upon motion made by Peggy Swearingen, seconded by Cynthia Able, the committee meeting for Thursday, February 25th was approved. It was also discussed that another meeting is set for Friday, February 26, 2021 with Trey Boone, a private consultant, to get a second opinion as to benefits, insurance, wages, and salaries. Upon motion made by Peggy Swearingen, seconded by Cynthia Able, the meeting on Friday, February 26, 2021, is approved.

Upon motion made by Timothy Hopkins, seconded by Cynthia Able, Derial Ogburn was approved to meet with a cooperative board member who is a Trustee of Electric Cooperative of South Carolina to discuss governance.

Keith Lewis and Bruce Bacon provided an update on the conditions of the Winnsboro Office and reported asbestos has been found in some areas of the building. Evaluations are continuing to determine if repairing and renovating are practicable or if demolition and replacement is needed. Property purchase for a new building site was also discussed. A committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 9, at 10:00 a.m. at the cooperative's Blythewood Office to further explore all options. Upon motion made and seconded the committee meeting was approved.

MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD CONTINUED

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Mitch Rabon and Bruce Bacon provided an update and discussion on Central Electric Power Cooperative's average cost of power and Central's cost to the cooperative's actual cost and projected cost of power. The 10 year Evolution Plan was discussed. Also, the possibility of and desirability of possibly opting out of contract. Attorney is to prepare a proposed letter outlining concerns with the Evolution Plan of Central Electric Power Cooperative and associated costs and debt and the ability of the Cooperative to opt out of new generation by Santee-Cooper and/or Central Electric Power Cooperative.

Derial Ogburn provided an update and discussion on the Electric Cooperatives of SC and discussed costs associated with membership in Statewide. The membership continues to be evaluated by the Board as to costs and benefits derived.

Robert Entzminger and Bruce Bacon provided an update on the operations of CEEUS.

John Roberts provided an update on the Trustee Association's Virtual Spring Conference. Discussed that the meeting in Myrtle Beach has been cancelled. A virtual meeting will be held at a future date.

Old business: None

New business: Peggy Swearingen discussed the possibility of receiving several bids from vendors as to grass cutting, having shrubs trimmed, yard maintenance for the Winnsboro office and Blythewood office. Also discussed the possibility of having additional bids for gas. Administration is to explore this.

Thereafter, all board members executed their Annual Certification of Conflicts of Interest forms.

There being no further business to come before the Board, upon motion made, seconded, and carried, the meeting was adjourned.

Signed: _____

Robert K. Miles, Secretary
APPROVED

ATTEST: _____

Mitchell D. Rabon, President