

REGULAR MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

December 11, 2023

A regular meeting of the members of the Board of Trustees of Fairfield Electric Cooperative, Inc., was held on Monday, December 11, 2023, 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
John E. Roberts, III	Donald Keith Lewis	Robert K. Miles
Bruce E. Honeycutt		

Attorney John DuBose was present.

Absent was Michael Good

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

The November 27, 2023, **meeting minutes** were approved as presented upon motion made by Robert Entzminger, seconded by Bruce Honeycutt, motion carried.

Upon motion made by Timothy L. Hopkins, seconded by Donald Keith Lewis, motion carried, 221 **new consumers** for the month of November were accepted as members of Fairfield Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A list of **delinquent accounts** totaling \$3,270.80 for the month of November was presented for consideration for write off as uncollectible. Upon motion made by Bruce Honeycutt, seconded by John E. Roberts, III, motion carried, authorization was granted to write these off against the cooperative's reserve for uncollectible accounts.

A list of **deceased patron's estates** requesting payment of their capital credits was presented for consideration. After discussion and upon motion made by Derial L. Ogburn, seconded by Cynthia Able, motion carried, the following resolution was adopted:

The estates of 9 deceased members have requested the Board of Directors give consideration to approving the retirement of \$4,164.45 as an administrative convenience to the estates. After reviewing the Cooperative's financial statements and determining such retirement will not adversely impact the Cooperative's financial condition, management recommends capital credits totaling \$4,164.45 be approved for payment. In addition, it should be noted that such approval does not obligate this Board or any future Board to retire the capital credits of the estates of deceased members presented at any future date.

REGULAR MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD CONTINUED

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Bruce Bacon reviewed and discussed the following with the Board:

- Financial reports for the month of November were reviewed. The November financial report was positive, and the Cooperative is in good shape financially.
- Operation Round Up will meet on December 11, 2023 at 5:00 pm
- Lineman retention and hiring was discussed: Fairfield Cooperative has hired five (5) new linemen recently. FEC is reviewing a potential training and employee development policy that might bolster retention. FEC will revisit possible training classes with Midlands Technical College.
- 2024 Strategic Plan: Bruce Bacon reported and discussed the EV (electric vehicles) policies and plans. FEC will continue to review a cost benefit analysis of EVs and charging stations. Mr. Bacon reported that reliability and stability of electric services remains a priority. Mr. Bacon also noted that employee safety planning will continue to be a priority.
- Scout Motors is expected to drive growth of new membership.
- Bruce Bacon recognized Cynthia Able for receiving the Director's Gold Certificate.

Mitch Rabon provided an update on Central Electric as follows:

- Strategic planning for transmission systems. Reliability versus affordability.
- Rate discussions and considerations.

Derial Ogburn provided an update on The Electric Cooperatives of SC. Mr. Ogburn had nothing to report.

Robert Entzminger provided an update on CEEUS:

- CEEUS had their meeting in Asheville.
- CEEUS is financially sound
- Discussed the warehouse to serve Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware. Half of the building is to be rented out to another company. SC Cooperatives have priority with CEEUS supplies.
- Another facility was purchased in Columbia and should be operational by the middle of next year.

Timothy L. Hopkins attended the conference in Charleston on behalf of John Roberts and provided an update on the Trustee Association:

- Annual dues have increased from \$500.00 to \$1,000.00.
- John Nichols of Newberry will provide ethics training at a meeting set to take place in the Spring.
- The next meeting will be at Statewide on January 10, 2024.

REGULAR MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD CONTINUED

December 11, 2023

Old Business:

- There is a vacancy to be filled on the Operation Round Up Board due to the resignation of Mr. Haskle Belton, Jr.

New Business:

- Cynthia Able reported that she will be stepping down as Chair of the Benefit Committee due to time constraints as well as other committees.
- The Board will need to find a candidate to fill the vacancy of Chair of the Benefit Committee.

Upon motion made by Mitch Rabon, seconded by Robert Entzminger, motion carried, the Board of Trustees appointed Timothy L. Hopkins to serve as Chair of the Benefit Committee. The Board thanked Cynthia Able for her service and for a job well done as Chair on the Benefit Committee.

Upon motion made by Timothy L. Hopkins, seconded by Donald Keith Lewis, motion carried, the Board moved into executive session. Mr. Rabon dismissed all but the Board of Trustee members.

Upon motion made by Donald Keith Lewis, seconded by Timothy L. Hopkins, motion carried, the Board moved out of the executive session.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Signed: _____

Robert K. Miles, Secretary
APPROVED

ATTEST: _____

Mitchell D. Rabon, President