

## REGULAR MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

July 26, 2021

A regular meeting of the members of the Board of Trustees of Fairfield Electric Cooperative, Inc., was held on Monday, July 26, 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
Michael Good		

Attorney Ken DuBose was present.

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

Upon motion made by John E. Roberts, III, seconded by Robert Entzminger, motion carried, the minutes of the meeting held on June 28, 2021, were approved as presented.

Upon motion made by Donald Keith Lewis, seconded by Cynthia Able, motion carried, 330 new consumers for the month of June were accepted as members of Fairfield Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A list of delinquent accounts totaling \$6,898.89 for the month of June was presented for consideration for write off as uncollectible. Upon motion made by Robert K. Miles, 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 John E. Roberts, III, seconded by Michael Good, motion carried, the following resolution was adopted:

The estates of 13 deceased members have requested the Board of Directors give consideration to approving the retirement of \$6,381.89 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 \$6,381.89 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.

## MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD CONTINUED

July 26, 2021

Bruce Bacon, Chief Executive Officer, reviewed and discussed the monthly financial reports and the quarterly controllable expenses report.

Bruce Bacon reported Operation Round Up's next board meeting will be held on Monday, August 16<sup>th</sup>.

Bruce Bacon provided an update on security system activity for June.

Bruce Bacon discussed the Board Retreat scheduled for September 27 and 28 at the Wampee Conference Center and confirmed attendance of those planning to attend.

NRECA's Regional II Meeting in Birmingham, AL scheduled October 4 – 7 was discussed. Upon motion made by John E. Roberts, III, seconded by Robert Entzminger, motion carried, the following were authorized to attend: Mitch Rabon, Peggy Swearingen, Cynthia Able, Derial Ogburn, and Robert Entzminger will attend the meeting in-person; and Tim Hopkins, Keith Lewis, Kenny Miles, and Mike Good will attend via virtual.

NRECA's Gettysburg Leadership Experience scheduled September 20 – 23 in Gettysburg, PA was discussed. Upon motion made by Timothy L. Hopkins, seconded by Robert K. Miles, motion carried, the following were authorized to attend: Cynthia Able, Derial Ogburn, and Peggy Swearingen.

Cynthia Able reviewed the Benefit Study and the Wage & Salary Study by Trey Boone with E-Sources. The costs of a plan for full coverage for spouses and dependents for all medical was discussed. Also, it was discussed that a meeting with Trey Boone prior to the next board meeting should be scheduled with the Benefit Committee which consists of Cynthia Able, John E. Roberts, Tim Hopkins, Peggy Swearingen, Derial Ogburn, Robert Entzminger, and Michael Good. It was also discussed that before the end of the year, the cooperative will need to decide on whether it wishes to retain Trey Boone or the present consulting firm. After discussion, upon motion made by Donald Keith Lewis, seconded by Michael Good, motion carried, a meeting for some time the week of August 16, 2021 through August 20, 2021, including Trey Boone, was approved.

Keith Lewis and Bruce Bacon reported on the Winnsboro Office Committee Meeting held July 12<sup>th</sup>. Bruce Bacon stated that the building has been completely torn down. He reported that he is waiting to hear back from two of the three engineering groups who are working on proposals to rebuild the Winnsboro Office facility at the same location.

## MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD CONTINUED

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Discussion was held to begin preliminary work to establish the 9 single member districts as approved in the bylaw revisions by the membership at the 2020 and 2021 Annual Meeting. Ken DuBose reported in accordance with the Bylaws the map needs to be approved by the Board by November 2021. Attorney DuBose stated that he has not heard back from the demographer/consultant but that cooperative's software could now be integrated with the mapping software. It was discussed that a meeting with the Single Member Districts & Bylaws Committee which consists of Derial Ogburn, Keith Lewis, Tim Hopkins, John Roberts, Peggy Swearingen, Mitch Rabon, ex officio, and Ken Dubose, Attorney, is scheduled for August 16, 2021, at 10:00 AM. Upon motion made by Derial Ogburn, seconded by Peggy Swearingen, motion carried, a meeting was approved for the Single Member Districts & Bylaws Committee to meet on August 16, 2021, at 10:00 AM.

Bruce Bacon and Mitch Rabon provided updates on Central Electric's current operations, the Cook settlement, the 10-year Evolution Plan, and granting Opt In or Opt Out options. Bruce Bacon provided an update on interviews conducted with energy consultants to analyze Central's proposal and advise FEC on possible options. Bruce Bacon reported that after discussion with several coops in North Carolina and Georgia, EnerVision was recommended as an energy consultant to analyze and advise FEC. Upon motion made by Derial Ogburn, seconded by Peggy Swearingen, it was approved to retain EnerVision to analyze Central's proposal and advise FEC on possible options.

Derial Ogburn provided an update on The Electric Cooperatives of SC. He reported that nothing has changed as pertains to transparency and governance concerns.

Robert Entzminger provided an update on CEEUS. Mr. Entzminger stated that we need to engage other CEOs and board members who will speak up and take a stand as to transparency.

John Roberts provided an update on the Trustee Association that there were no new developments. It was suggested that the Trustee Association request a speaker and/or information from Central in regards to Central's 10 year Evolution Plan.

Old Business: Peggy Swearingen discussed honoring Billy Good, deceased, by displaying his Order of Palmetto Award at the cooperative. Also discussed was the cost of the Living magazine which is \$15,000 a month. By November FEC needs to make a decision as to whether to continue to subscribe to the Living magazine going forward. It was discussed that the possibility of sending a survey along with the electrical bill to members as to the Living magazine and a cost benefit analysis. Also discussed was mileage for personal vehicles and the purchase of diesel/gas and the policies and procedures of purchasing diesel/gas. Ms. Swearingen would like to see a copy of the bids for the last three months as to the diesel/gas purchase.

**MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD CONTINUED**

**July 26, 2021**

Mitch Rabon discussed complaints made by a member as to perceived campaign issues. The campaign process was discussed as well.

Mitch Rabon also discussed the CFC news article regarding pitfalls of cooperatives engaging in nonelectrical service businesses.

Derial Ogburn discussed the matter of broad band for rural areas. Mr. Ogburn spoke with Harold Gardner of Lynches River Cooperative regarding grants from the federal government to provide broad band and the viability of providing broad band. The cost and feasibility of providing broad band was also discussed. Mr. Ogburn will keep pursuing this matter.

New Business: No new business.

There being no further business to come before the Board, upon motion made, seconded by unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert K. Miles, Secretary  
APPROVED

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mitchell D. Rabon, President