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

**St. Matthews, South Carolina**

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

November 20, 2021

The Annual Meeting of the members of Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc. (hereinafter called the Cooperative) was held at the headquarters office of Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc. in St. Matthews, South Carolina on Saturday, November 20, 2021 at 2:00 p.m., with registration beginning at 9:00 a.m. The Business Meeting was live streamed on Tri-County Electric Cooperative’s Facebook page.

President, Barbara Weston, called the 81st Annual Meeting of the Membership to Order. Following the Call to Order, Board Secretary, Jacqueline S. Shaw, introduced the National anthem, as was performed by employees of South Carolina’s electric cooperatives. Following the National Anthem, Board Vice President, Ida Dixon, gave the Invocation.

Barbara Weston then welcomed the members viewing the meeting to the 81st Annual Meeting and introduced the board members and CEO. The meeting was then turned over to Attorney John Felder, who announced that a quorum was registered. The Notice of Annual Meeting was posted in the South Carolina Living Magazine and the Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting were posted to the Cooperative’s website. There were no objections, therefore, the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of November 21, 2020 were approved.

Nominating Committee Chairman, Wanda Abraham, gave the 2021 Nominating Committee Report, which listed the following nominations by the Nominating Committee:

District 1 Section C S. George Wilson

District 2 Section B Joseph F. Strickland, Jr.

District 3 Section A Willie E. Jeffries

Attorney John Felder stated that the Trustees were running unopposed and declared they be elected by acclamation. Mr. Felder then administered the Oath of Office to the Trustees.

Gary Geiger, Treasurer, gave the Treasurer’s Report.

John Felder then called upon Chad Lowder, CEO, to give the CEO’s report. In his comments, Mr. Lowder praised the employees for continuing to provide excellent service even in the midst of the challenges and impacts of working through the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID brought to light the lack of high-speed data that our area desperately needs. Because of this, our trustees and management team took on this challenge, and in 2020 began the largest construction project our cooperative has seen since the 1940’s. This project involves construction of almost 3,000 miles of fiber that will provide high speed internet to every member of Tri-County’s territory. This estimated three-hear project is expected to be completed in just two years, and construction is expected to be completed in the summer of 2022. Another task our trustees and management team took on this year was to look at our rates, how we charge, and how we bill our members. We have worked with an outside consultant throughout a twelve-month period and we have just announced a rate realignment. This realignment will result in most of our members receiving a 1%-2% reduction in their power bill. This is being achieved through operation efficiency, by changing how we charge, and by making these charges more equitable across all rate classes. The changes will help your cooperative become more equitable and more financially stable. Additional information concerning the rates can be found on our member portal or by calling and talking with one of our Member Service Representatives. Mr. Lowder concluded his remarks by thanking the employees and their families for the service they provide to our members.

John Felder then expressed appreciation to the Board, Management, Staff, and Employees for their hard work.

There was no unfinished business.

There was no new business.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m. Following adjournment of the business meeting, prize drawings were held. The grand prize, a 2008 Chevrolet Impala LT, was won by Beverly Ann Felton.

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Jacqueline S. Shaw, Secretary

APPROVED:

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Barbara F. Weston, President