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

St. Matthews, South Carolina

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

October 24, 2019

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 October 24, 2019 at the Cooperative’s headquarters office in St. Matthews, South Carolina.

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.

Following the Invocation, President Barbara Weston thanked Tri-County for providing lighting at the landfill on Screaming Eagle Road for a special recovery operation.

**MEMBER COMMENT PERIOD**

No members were present during the Member Comment Period.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

On a motion by Jim Dantzler, seconded by Willie Jeffries, and carried, the minutes of the September 26, 2019 Board meeting were approved.

**REPORTS**

**SYSTEM SUMMARY REPORT**

The System Summary Report was accepted as presented by the CEO.

**MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Chad Lowder, CEO, presented the September Financial Statement.

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**NEW MEMBER REPORT**

The CEO reported that 108 new members for September 2019 made application for service and those new members are now actively receiving electric service from the Cooperative. Thereafter, on motion by Joe Strickland, seconded by Jackie Shaw, and carried, the following resolution was approved:

 RESOLVED, the applications of new members are hereby accepted and approved.

**SAFETY REPORT**

The CEO reported that there were no lost time accidents, no hours lost, no OSHA Recordable accidents, no employee injuries, no vehicle accidents, no consumer damage claims, and no miscellaneous incidents reported in September 2019.

**UPDATES**

**CENTRAL UPDATE**

Chad Lowder updated the board on the confidential lawsuit and informed the board that we are preparing for depositions. The trial date is set for February 24, 2020.

**STATEWIDE UPDATE**

The CEO stated that the articles for the October *South Carolina Living* magazine are posted on BoardPaq. On motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by George Wilson, and carried, the board voted to renew the membership in the ECSC and retain all services, including subscription to the *South Carolina Living* magazine for 11 issues in 2020.

Mr. Lowder informed the board that the Statewide budget for 2020 was approved and that dues went down slightly. Those interested in attending the ECSC Winter Conference were asked to confirm their plans with Cindy Sarratt so that appropriate accommodations can be made.

**BROADBAND UPDATE**

Mr. Lowder reported that he will have three feasibility studies and business plans by December or January so that the board can make a decision on whether to move forward with Broadband. Also, Central is looking at putting a fiber backbone to all of

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the Cooperative substations and possibly running fiber beside the Cooperative headquarters offices.

**TRICO GLOBAL INDUSTRIAL SITE UPDATE**

The CEO reported that bids for wastewater are coming in today and will be opened next week. The goal to have wastewater completed is Summer 2020. There are still grassing issues that are preventing the contract from being completed. The construction company is being penalized. A full breakdown of the site will be in the budget.

**REPORT OF STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING**

Mr. Lowder informed the board that CFC is coming on November 26th to go through implementation of the Board’s Strategic Plan with Staff. A report will be given at the December board meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**EMPLOYEE INSURANCE AND BENEFITS**

The CEO announced that there will be a 2.2% increase in health insurance premiums for employees for 2020. He then reviewed the Employee and Retiree Insurance Rates, the R&S Plan, and the 401K Plan for 2020. On motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by Jackie Shaw, and carried, the Employee Health Insurance, the Retiree Insurance Rates, the R&S Plan, and the 401K Plan for 2020 were approved.

**SAFETY INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

Chad Lowder presented a Safety Incentive Program to the board for review. The board asked the CEO to look into categorizing the incentive according to risk and bringing it back to the board to review again.

**TRUSTEE PER DIEM**

On motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by Jim Dantzler, and carried, the Trustee Per Diem will remain at $450.

**NOVEMBER BUDGET WORKSHOP**

A Budget Workshop for the Board was scheduled for Friday, November 15th at 5:00 p.m.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion by Joe Strickland, seconded by Willie Jeffries, and carried, the board went into executive session to discuss economic development, receive legal advice, and discuss personnel matters. Then, on motion by William Robinson, seconded by Willie Jeffries, and carried, the board returned to regular session after having taken no action in executive session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on motion by William Robinson, seconded by Jackie Shaw, and carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

 *S. Jacqueline S. Shaw*

 Jacqueline S. Shaw, Secretary

APPROVED:

*S. Barbara F. Weston*

Barbara F. Weston, President