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

St. Matthews, South Carolina

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

July 23, 2020

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 July 23, 2020 at the Cooperative’s headquarters office in St. Matthews, South Carolina and via teleconference. In order to comply with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s guidance of social distancing due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreaks, the meeting took place in the Auditorium.

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 (via telephone), and Jacqueline S. Shaw, these being all of the trustees of the Cooperative. Also present were Frank Furtick, COO, Chad T. Lowder, CEO, John G. Felder, Sr., General Counsel, 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 6:00 p.m. Following the Call to Order, George Wilson gave the Invocation.

**MEMBER COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no members present during the Member Comment Period.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OF June 25, 2020**

On motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by Willie Jeffries, and carried, the minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting of June 25, 2020 were approved.

**REPORTS**

**SYSTEM SUMMARY REPORTS**

The System Summary Reports were approved as presented by the CEO.

**MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The Monthly Financial Statements were approved as presented by the CEO.

**NEW MEMBER REPORT**

The CEO reported that from June 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020 95 new members 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 Gary Geiger, and carried, the following resolution was approved:

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

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**SAFETY REPORT**

The CEO reported that there were no lost time accidents, no hours lost, no OSHA Recordable accidents, and no employee injuries reported in June 2020. The CEO then gave an explanation of one vehicle accident, 1 consumer damage claim, and 1 miscellaneous incident. Mr. Lowder then gave a COVID-19 report.

**REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Barbara Weston reported that the Committee met at 5:30 p.m. and reviewed the expense reports and credit card invoices for the Board, CEO, and Attorney for the period June 1-30, 2020. All accounts were in order and were approved by the Audit Committee, with the exception of two expense reports that were adjusted for mileage.

**UPDATES**

**CENTRAL UPDATE**

Chad Lowder announced that Central’s July Board Meeting Summary has been posted on BoardPaq.

**STATEWIDE UPDATE**

During the Statewide Update, Mr. Lowder reported that Judge Toal approved the Cooke Case settlement on June 20, 2020. The *South Carolina Living* article wasn’t available, but Mr. Lowder stated he would post it on BoardPaq when he gets it. Board Members were reminded that appointments to the Nominations Committee and the Credentials and Election Committee should be submitted no later than the August board meeting. Information about the “Pay it Forward” competition was posted on BoardPaq.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**TRICO GLOBAL INDUSTRIAL SITE UPDATE**

Mr. Lowder informed the board that water is on site and sewer should be on site in August or September. A further update will be discussed in Executive Session.

**RICHLAND DISTRICT OFFICE REMODEL STATUS**

Mr. Lowder reported that construction began on Monday and should be completed by mid-August.

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**FIBER TO THE HOME PR0JECT UPDATE**

Mr. Lowder reported that the make ready contractors were selected. Sumter Utilities received the construction bid and CEE-US received the material bid. CSR’s will be hired by Kelly Services in August.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CFC VOTING DELEGATE**

Mr. Lowder reported that the CFC Voting Delegates were selected in January. There will be a web-based meeting in August.

**BOARD CERTIFICATION**

Barbara Weston reported that Chris Koon, General Counsel for Statewide, issued an opinion that William Robinson has enough experience to be credentialed. Joe Strickland made the motion to accept Mr. Koon’s opinion. The motion was seconded by Willie Jeffries. After a vote of five (5) yays to two (2) nays, the decision was made to accept William Robinson’s experience as being equivalent to a Trustee’s Certificate. William Robinson recused himself from voting on the motion. It was noted that if the situation arises again, the determination regarding certification should be handled sooner.

**CEO COMMENTS**

Mr. Lowder stated he will give the CEO Comments in Executive Session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion by Joe Strickland, seconded by Willie Jeffries, and carried, the board entered executive session to receive legal advice and confidential CEO Comments. Then, on motion by George Wilson, seconded by William Robinson, 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 Joe Strickland, and carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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 Jacqueline S. Shaw, Secretary

APPROVED:

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Barbara F. Weston, President