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

St. Matthews, South Carolina

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

February 27, 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 February 27, 2020 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 Frank Furtick, COO, Michael Weeks, CFO, 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, Jackie Shaw gave the Invocation.

**MEMBER COMMENT PERIOD**

One member was present during the Member Comment Period to discuss outages caused by trees falling onto power lines from outside of the right-of-way, mainly due to the fact that beetles have infested the pine trees. Mr. Lowder stated that we would try to patrol the line and do what we can do within our rights to limit the outages.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

On a motion by William Robinson, seconded by Willie Jeffries, and carried, the minutes of the January 23, 2020 Board meeting were approved.

**REPORTS**

**SYSTEM SUMMARY REPORT AND MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

The System Summary Report and Monthly Financial Statements were not available due to the pending annual audit. A board work session was scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. for the purpose of an annual audit review with the auditor.

**NEW MEMBER REPORT**

The CEO reported that from January 1, 2020 through January 31, 2020 103 new members made application for service and those new members are now actively receiving

electric service from the Cooperative. Thereafter, on motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by Jim Dantzler, 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, no employee injuries, no vehicle accidents, no consumer accidents, and no miscellaneous accidents reported in January 2020.

**UPDATES**

**CENTRAL UPDATE**

The Central Update was given in Executive Session.

**STATEWIDE UPDATE**

Mr. Lowder informed the board that a summary of the February 6th ECSC Board Meeting is on BoardPaq, along with a copy of the articles for the March *South Carolina Living* magazine. The Lineworkers Rodeo is scheduled for Saturday, March 21. Other Statewide news was discussed in Executive Session.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**TRICO GLOBAL INDUSTRIAL SITE UPDATE**

Mr. Lowder updated the board on the industrial site progress and reviewed the balance sheet for TriCo Development LLC.

**2020 COST OF SERVICE STUDY UPDATE**

The CEO reported that Booth and Associates are updating our cost of service from the last rate study. The full report will be received in August or September and will be presented to the board in October.

**RICHLAND DISTRICT OFFICE REMODEL STATUS**

Mr. Lowder reported that an environmental study was performed on the current building yesterday. An architectural design will be brought to the board. Advantage Contractors was selected to do the work.

**MEMBER SERVICE AND SUPERVISOR TRAINING**

The CEO reported that we are developing a plan to better serve our members. Member Service Training is scheduled for April 29-30. Supervisor Training is scheduled for May 20-21. In addition, we are developing a plan of action to work with the MSRs on ways to manage the call volumes and customer service.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

**BAD DEBT WRITE-OFF FOR 2019**

On motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by Willie Jeffries, and carried, $92,461.55 in bad debts for 2019 was approved to be written off.

**APPROVAL AND SELECTION OF ENGINEERING FIRM FOR LONG RANGE AND WORK PLAN STUDIES**

Chad Lowder reported that three bids were received for a 2-year construction work plan,

2-year extension on the long-range plan, an Operation and Maintenance survey and review, and a line loss study. The bids received were Patterson and Dewars $126,000, Booth and Associates $79,000, and McCall-Thomas $78,200. On motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by George Wilson, and carried, with one vote opposed, the Cooperative will contract with Booth and Associates for the studies.

**APPROVAL OF FIBER TO THE HOME PROJECT**

On motion by George Wilson, seconded by Jackie Shaw, and carried, the board approved a three-year project for Fiber to the Home Internet service and the creation of a for-profit subsidiary to operate the voice and internet service, contracting with Conexon to design and construct the network. The total project cost is $50 million; Phase 1 will be $15.2 million, Phase 2 will be $20.5 million, and Phase 3 will be $14.3 million. The board will have the ability to discontinue construction after each phase.

**TRUSTEE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE COMMITMENT**

Trustees were asked to let Cindy know if they will be attending the Trustee Association Conference April 20-22 so that she can make arrangements.

**NRECA WASHINGTON LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE COMMITMENT**

Trustees were asked to let Cindy know if they will be attending the NRECA Washington Legislative Conference April 26-28 so that she can make arrangements.

**REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Barbara Weston reported that the Audit Committee reviewed expense reports and credit card invoices for all board members and the CEO covering January 1-31, 2020 on BoardPaq. The accounts were in order and were approved.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion by Willie Jeffries, seconded by Jackie Shaw, and carried, the board entered executive session to receive legal advice. Then, on motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by George Wilson, 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 Gary Geiger, seconded by George Wilson, and carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

*S. Jacqueline S. Shaw\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

Jacqueline S. Shaw, Secretary

APPROVED:

*S. Barbara F. Weston\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

Barbara F. Weston, President