

REGULAR MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

April 24, 2023

A regular meeting of the members of the Board of Trustees of Fairfield Electric Cooperative, Inc., was held on Monday, April 24, 2023, at 12:30 p.m. at the cooperative headquarters in Blythewood, South Carolina. The following board members were present:

Cynthia Able	Timothy L. Hopkins	Mitchell D. Rabon
Robert Entzminger	Donald Keith Lewis	John E. Roberts, III
Michael Good	Robert K. Miles	Peggy D. Swearingen
Bruce E. Honeycutt	Derial L. Ogburn	

Attorney John DuBose was present.

Chairman Mitchell Rabon called the meeting to order. Robert Entzminger gave the invocation.

Upon motion made by John E. Roberts, III, seconded by Timothy Hopkins, motion carried, the **minutes of the meeting held on March 27, 2023** were approved as presented.

Upon motion made by Donald Keith Lewis, seconded by Bruce Honeycutt, motion carried, **274 new consumers for the month of March** were accepted as members of Fairfield Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A list of **delinquent accounts totaling \$2,987.26 for the month of March** was presented for consideration for write off as uncollectible. Upon motion made by Michael Good, seconded by Bruce Honeycutt, 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 Cynthia Able, motion carried, the following resolution was adopted:

The estates of 16 deceased members have requested the Board of Directors give consideration to approving the retirement of \$10,399.93 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 \$10,399.93 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.

REGULAR MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD-CONTINUED
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Bruce Bacon, Chief Executive Officer, reviewed, updated and discussed the following:

- monthly financial report
- ^{1st} quarter (January – March) Controllable Expenses
- Operation Roundup Meeting – at the April 17, 2023 meeting, donations were made to a fire victim, a needy family, the Christian Assistance Bridge, the Blessing Box, the Elgin Benevolence Fund and Bridge Builders. The next meeting will be on June 19, 2023.
- recent youth program representatives and winners (Children’s Book Challenge; Washington Youth Tour; Cooperative Youth Summit; and FEC Cooperative Scholarships)
- Credentials and Elections Committee – Keith Bailey was elected as Chairman, and Sarah Coleman was elected as Secretary. The Fairfield Count Voter Registration Office will oversee registration and voting for the 2023 election of the Board of Directors.
- General retirement of Capital Credits – Capital credit checks will be mailed on May 3, 2023. Bill credits of \$74.99 or less will be applied to active accounts. The total capital credit refund is \$2,085,587.49.
- security system activity
- the Volkswagen SCOUT industrial facility locating in Blythewood
- ORS requested an additional Audit Compliance Examination of Records and Information Requests. The audit will consist of compensation of the board members, review the website, review of board meetings, and review of board minutes.

REVIEW OF 2022 990 TAX RETURN

Mitch Rabon reported that the review of the 2022 990 tax return was completed by Elliott Davis. The review of the tax returns consisted of board member compensation and benefits, review of the website, board meetings, and board minutes. There was nothing out of the ordinary and there were no issues. Upon motion made by Donald Keith Lewis, seconded by Derial Ogburn, motion carried, the IRS Form 990 was accepted as presented.

Appointment of positions on the Board of Trustees for Fairfield Electric’s Trust Corporation/Operation Round Up for 2023-2024 were discussed. Upon motion made by Cynthia Able, seconded by Donald Keith Lewis, motion carried, Nancy Smith, Jimmy Jackson, Jaime Wright a/k/a James A. Millis, and Eric Gill, were nominated.

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Keith Lewis reported on the **progress of the Winnsboro Office**. Mr. Lewis reported that the bullet proof glass for the drive-thru window has been installed. The landscaping looks good, the sprinkler system turned out good as well as the sod. Mr. Lewis reported that there is more than sufficient space to maneuver vehicles in the drive-thru. The final inspection from the County passed.

John DuBose provided an update on **Central Electric Power Cooperative (CEPC)**. The lawsuit was mediated on March 30, 2023, and resolved by a proposed bylaw amendment to the CEPC bylaws. Settlement is subject to CEPC board approval at its May meeting. Each party is responsible for their legal fees. John DuBose reported that the results are positive and beneficial to Fairfield Electric Cooperative, Inc., other member cooperatives of CEPC, and CEPC.

Derial Ogburn provided an update on **The Electric Cooperatives of SC**. Mr. Ogburn reported that ECSC will build a new training center. The current training center is worn out. Mr. Ogburn stated that the cost to build the new training center will be about \$10,000,000.00 to build.

Robert Entzminger provided an update on **CEEUS**. Mr. Entzminger reported that the distribution warehouse will expand in Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. Mr. Entzminger reported that CEEUS has given assurances that South Carolina cooperatives will receive priority in supply.

John Roberts reported that he will provide an update after the meeting in May in Charleston.

OLD BUSINESS: Mitch Rabon reported that the board should consider restructuring the hotline. Mr. Rabon reported that the hotline should have a Trustee serve as the administrator and an FEC employee serve as the other. Mr. Rabon reported that the hotline is not part of the call center. Mr. Rabon suggested that Peggy Swearingen remain as an administrator of the hotline and that Mary Reardon, an FEC employee, serve as the other administrator of the hotline. Upon motion made by Donald Keith Lewis, seconded by Robert Entzminger, motion carried, that Peggy Swearingen continue to serve as Trustee representative and Mary Reardon or a person selected by Bruce Bacon shall serve as the general representative.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Lewis reported that by 2030 there will be more electric vehicles. Mr. Lewis suggested that FEC consider planning for the necessity of charging electric vehicles and prepare for the logistical challenges associated with charging electric vehicles. Mr. Bacon stated that a procedure needs to be in place to avoid and discourage vehicle charging at peak load usage times.

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There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Donald K. Lewis, seconded by Robert Entzminger, motion carried and approved, the meeting was adjourned.

Signed: _____
Robert K. Miles, Secretary
APPROVED

ATTEST: _____
Mitchell D. Rabon, President