

## REGULAR MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

March 24, 2025

A regular meeting of the members of the Board of Trustees of Fairfield Electric Cooperative, Inc., was held on Monday, March 24, 2025, at 12:30 p.m. at the cooperative headquarters in Blythewood, South Carolina. The following board members were present:

Mitchell D. Rabon	Robert Entzminger	Peggy D. Swearingen
Timothy L. Hopkins	Cynthia Able	Derial L. Ogburn
Ronald Friday	Donald Keith Lewis	Robert K. Miles
William Michael Good	Bruce E. Honeycutt	

Mike Good participated in the meeting via telephone.

Attorney John K. DuBose, III was present.

President Mitch Rabon called the meeting to order.

Robert Entzminger gave the invocation.

Upon motion made by Keith Lewis, seconded by Derial Ogburn, motion carried, the Board entered Executive Session to discuss the District 3 Trustee position with Jay Bender, Esq. of Baker, Ravenel & Bender. The incumbent Trustee did not seek re-election and the candidate for District 3 was not nominated. Due to the matter being a legal briefing regarding the District 3 Trustee, Mitch Rabon recused himself from the boardroom.

Upon motion made by Keith Lewis, seconded by Timothy Hopkins, the Board exited Executive Session and resumed the regular Board meeting.

President Rabon welcomed and introduced **Attorney Jay Bender** of Baker, Ravenel & Bender. Mr. Bender discussed the processes and procedures for the 2025 Election of the Board of Trustees.

President Rabon welcomed and introduced **Cole Price with Central Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (“Central Electric”)**. Mr. Price discussed the proposed Class “B” membership structure and a proposed cost allocation methodology model.

Upon motion made by Ronald Friday, seconded by Cynthia Able, motion carried, the Board entered into Executive Session.

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Upon motion made by Timothy Hopkins, seconded by Ronald Friday, motion carried, the Board exited Executive Session and resumed the regular Board meeting.

President Rabon welcomed and introduced Erick Marsha, VP of Finance, Fairfield Electric Cooperative. Mr. Marsha discussed recommendations from GDS Associates, Inc. regarding proposed amended rate structures. The Board received information regarding proposed rate adjustment by membership category. No action was taken by the Board. The Board will vote on the proposed amendments to the rate structure no earlier than June.

The rate classes listed below are different billing services that are subject to a rate increase.

### **Outdoor Lighting**

- Applies to dusk-to-dawn lighting by means of photoelectric controlled ballast operated mercury, sodium, or other luminaries, and poles conforming to the Cooperative's specifications.

### **Residential Solar Service**

- Applicable to solar installations for residential, farm, and home consumers where service requirements necessitate the installation of 50 kVA or less transformer capacity.

### **Construction Service**

- This applies to temporary service for builders. Approved for lighting and power for a construction site using a single point of delivery per premises from existing overhead lines.

### **Large Power Service**

- Applicable for a large power service, requiring more than 50 kVA of installed transformer capacity, for all uses.
- A typical user of this service class is a fast-food restaurant.

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### **Large Power – High Load Factor Service**

- Applicable, at the option of the consumer, for high load factor large power service, requiring more than 50 kVA of required transformer capacity, for all uses. This requires electricity that runs all the time.
- This rate will typically apply to uses like doctor's medical offices and smaller hospitals.

### **Large Power – Time of Use Service**

- Applicable to large power consumers only and on a voluntary and limited basis at the Cooperative's option. This rate is an experimental rate and may be changed or discontinued at any time solely at the discretion of the Cooperative. This rate would apply to consumers requiring multi-phase transformer capacity in excess of 100 kVA.
- This service will typically apply to uses like schools.

### **Prepay Service**

- Applicable to residential, farm, and home consumers where service requirements necessitate the installation of 50 kVA or less transformer capacity.
- The prepayment plan is beneficial to consumers. Under this service consumers pre-pay their account and receive power until the account pre-payment balance has been exhausted. Consumers can monitor and are provided regular notice of their energy consumption and the amount of prepayment left on the account.
- Service under this rate may also be available to multi-phase customers larger than 50 kVA who install energy management systems approved by the Cooperative.
- The capacity of individual motors served under this schedule shall not exceed seven and one-half (7 ½) horsepower without consent from the Cooperative.

### **Residential Service**

- Applicable to residential, farm, and home consumers where service requirements necessitate the installation of 50 kVA or less transformer capacity.
- Service under this rate may also be available to multi-phase customers larger than 50 kVA who install energy management systems approved by the Cooperative.
- The capacity of individual motors served under this schedule shall not exceed seven and one-half (7 ½) horsepower without consent from the Cooperative.

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### Small Commercial Service

- Applicable to small commercial and general service consumers, for all uses, where service requirements necessitate the installation of 50 KVA or less transformer capacity.
- The capacity of individual motors served under this schedule shall not exceed seven and one-half (7 ½) horsepower without consent from the Cooperative.
- This service will apply to churches and small businesses.

The staff and trustees discussed and considered all the information that has been presented to FEC from the power and material suppliers concerning inevitable price increases. The staff and trustees agreed to make every effort to keep the required rate increases as low as possible for our members.

Upon motion made by Ronald Friday, seconded by Keith Lewis, motion carried, with the exception of a scrivener's error to correct the last name of a Member Advisory Committee, the **minutes of the meeting held on February 24, 2025**, were approved as presented.

Upon motion made by Peggy Swearingen, seconded by Cynthia Able, motion carried, **230 new consumers** for the month of February 2025 were accepted as members of Fairfield Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A list of **delinquent accounts** totaling \$8,226.80 for the month of February 2025 was presented for consideration for write-off as uncollectible. Upon motion made by Bruce Honeycutt, seconded by Peggy Swearingen, 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 Timothy Hopkins, seconded by Peggy Swearingen, motion carried, the following resolution was adopted.

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The estates of 11 deceased members have requested the Board of Directors to consider approving the retirement of \$7,785.35 as an administrative convenience to the estates. After reviewing the Cooperative's financial statements and determining whether such retirement will adversely impact the Cooperative's financial condition, management recommends capital credits totaling \$7,785.35 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.

Bruce Bacon, **Chief Executive Officer**, reviewed and discussed the financial status of the Cooperative and reviewed accounting reports with the Board. Mr. Bacon highlighted the following:

- Revenue is slightly down due to mild weather.
- The cost of purchasing power is slightly greater than budgeted.
- All controlled expenses are in line with budget projections.
- Overall, the budget is in good shape, the fluctuations noted in this month's report are expected to normalize over the course of the year.

**Operation Round Up** – The next Operation Round Up meeting will be held on April 21, 2025. Trustees will need to be named and approved for the year 2025-2026 and will be seated at the June 2025 meeting.

- Mitch Rabon nominated Jackie and Tonya Watts.

Two new trustees need to be appointed to replace:

- Tim McSwain – He has served a second term – appoint a new trustee.
- Chip Kreps – He resigned due to relocation – appoint a new trustee.

Terms ending in 2026:

Eric Gill, Nancy Smith, Jimmy Jackson

Terms ending in 2027:

Leo Scott, Jr., Lesley Stewart, Jim Stroman,  
Josephine Trapp

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- The annual meeting gift for this year will be a folding chair.
- The 2025 Washington Youth Tour Participants, the 2025 Cooperative Youth Summit Participants, and the 2025 Fairfield Electric Scholarship Recipients will be recognized with an announcement at the member advisory meeting and annual member meeting.

### Upcoming Events:

- CEE Us Tradeshow – March 26, 2025 to take place at the new office from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.
- Member Advisory Meeting – April 16, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.: scheduled for April 16, 2025 due to Good Friday holiday on April 18, 2025.
- New Directors' Conference – March 25 – 29, 2025 in Arlington, VA
- Legislative Conference – April 27-30, 2025, in Washington, DC
- ECSC Trustee Association – May 7-9, 2025, in Mt. Pleasant, SC
- ECSC Summer Conference – June 1-4, 2025 @ Isle of Palms, SC

Upon motion made by Peggy Swearingen, seconded by Robert Entzminger, motion carried, Mitch Rabon is authorized to attend and will attend the Legislative Conference April 27-30, 2025, in Washington, DC in place of Timothy Hopkins.

Upon motion made by Bruce Honeycutt, seconded by Keith Lewis, motion carried, the **grand prize for the annual meeting** will be a 2017 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 pickup truck (Truck 3717).

President Mitch Rabon presented the three sets of minutes of the 2025 **Committee on Nominations** as contained in the agenda package.

- Wednesday, February 12, 2025
- Thursday, March 13, 2025
- Revised Minutes, March 13, 2025, to revise scrivener's errors.

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President Mitch Rabon provided an update on the 2025 **Credentials and Elections Committee**.

- Bruce Bacon reviewed the records for electronic voting software and forms of ballots suggested by the Committee for each district.
- The Board is responsible for the voting process.
- The ballot is to be approved by the Board.
- The Board is responsible for any changes made to the Bylaws and approval by the Board.

President Mitch Rabon presented the two sets of minutes of the 2025 **Credentials and Elections Committee** in the agenda package.

- Monday, March 10, 2025
- Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Upon motion made by Ronald Friday, seconded by Keith Lewis, motion carried, and unanimously approved the minutes of both the Committee of Nominations and Credentials and Elections Committee and those minutes are accepted as presented and approved the Credentials and Elections Committee recommendations of electronic voting software and forms of ballots for each district.

President Mitch Rabon presented information regarding the **2025 Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina (ECSC) Summer Conference** to be held June 1 – 4, 2025 at the Wild Dunes Resort in Mt. Pleasant, SC. Upon motion made by Timothy Hopkins, seconded by Robert Entzminger, motion carried, the following were authorized to attend:

Mitchell D. Rabon  
Timothy L. Hopkins  
Ronald Friday  
William Michael Good

Robert Entzminger  
Cynthia Able  
Donald Keith Lewis  
Bruce E. Honeycutt

Peggy D. Swearingen  
Derial L. Ogburn  
Robert K. Miles

John DuBose briefly reviewed and discussed proposed edits to the following policies with the Board: Policy 16, Major Outage Declaration, and Annual Total Compensation Report.

Upon motion made by Bruce Honeycutt, seconded by Keith Lewis, motion carried, Policy 16, Major Outage Declaration, and Annual Total Compensation Report, revisions to the policies were approved.

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Mitch Rabon and Bruce Bacon provided an update on **Central Electric Power Cooperative**.

- Class B Membership structure discussed.
- The aggregated rate of SCPSA will remain embedded in future opt in options.

Derial Ogburn was excused to exit the meeting earlier, therefore there was no update on **ECSC**.

Robert Entzminger provided an **update on CEEUS, Inc.**

- The next CEEUS meeting is in June.
- The CEEUS Tradeshow was discussed.
- The grand opening of the VA, DE, and MD facilities has been rescheduled.

Tim Hopkins provided an **update on the Trustee Association**.

- Mr. Hopkins had nothing new to report
- The Trustee Association conference is set for May 7-9, 2025 in Mt. Pleasant, SC.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

- Peggy Swearingen discussed that there is a person in Fairfield County that is willing and able to pick up used tires.
- Peggy Swearingen noted that there are dumping issues with tire dumping within the Cooperative service territory and upon Cooperative rights-of-way.
- Peggy Swearingen also discussed alternate purchasing options for the Cooperative's water heater program and potential economies of scale benefits for water heater purchases.

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Robert K. Miles, Secretary

APPROVED

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Mitchell D. Rabon, President