

**Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
December 16, 2021
Greenville, IL**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held on Thursday, December 16, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. at the office of Southwestern Electric Cooperative headquarters in Greenville, IL pursuant to notice given. President Ann Schwarm called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

The following directors were present constituting a quorum:

Jerry Gaffner
Sandy Grapperhaus
Annette Hartlieb
Bill Jennings
Sandy Nevinger
Ann Schwarm
Jared Stine
Marvin Warner
Ted Willman

Staff members present were HR Administrator Marissa Horn, Accounting Manager Laura Huge, VP of Member Services Susan File, Chief Executive Officer Bobby Williams, Chief Financial Officer Becky Jacobson, and Executive Assistant Brooke Scott.

Introduction of New Accounting Manager and HR Administrator:

Williams introduced Accounting Manager Laura Huge to the board. Her first day was November 18th. Next, Williams introduced HR Administrator Marissa Horn. Her first day was December 13th. They gave a brief overview of their professional lives. The board welcomed Huge and Horn to SWECL. Huge and Horn left the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Rate/Tariff Presentation:

The board reviewed and discussed the unbundled rate book and sample bills with the new format. Warner made a motion to approve the rate book as presented. Hartlieb seconded and the motion passed unanimously (9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained).

The board discussed SWECI member number 21467. File will review the account and reach out to the member.

Executive Session:

Garrett Cole from GDS joined the meeting via video conference at 5:55 p.m. At 5:56 p.m., Grapperhaus made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss Freedom Power Station operations. Willman seconded; motion carried. Cole left the meeting at 6:24 p.m. At 6:26 p.m., Nevinger made a motion to leave executive session. Stine seconded; motion carried.

Committee Report:

The Executive Committee met on December 7th at the Greenville Headquarters to discuss the 2022 Annual Meeting. President Schwarm gave a verbal report.

The topics discussed included:

- COVID-19.
- Drive thru voting.
- Member engagement.
- Bill credits.
- Location.
- Technology fair.

The board reviewed the Annual Meeting statistics for 2014-2021. The board will revisit discussion regarding the 2022 Annual Meeting at January's board meeting during unfinished business. File left the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

The meeting recessed at 7:10 p.m. and reconvened at 7:25 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the regular board meeting held on November 18, 2021, were considered. On a motion made by Nevinger, seconded by Hartlieb, and carried; the minutes were approved as presented.

Staff Reports & Presentations

Report of Operations and Construction

CFO Becky Jacobson's report included:

- Update on the progress of:
 - October and November's closing process.
 - Cost of power analysis.
 - Budget.
 - Payroll.
 - Libbra Memorial Scholarship.
 - Asset Purchases.
- Long-term Debt.
- Capital Credit analysis for 2015-2021.

Operating Report and Work Order Summary Approval

October and November's Operating Report and Work Order Summary will be considered at January's board meeting.

CEO's Report:

CEO Bobby Williams' report included:

- No lost time accidents for November.
- Job openings and new hires.
- Status of Maple Grove Transmission Line project.
- Security.
- Member matters.
- Update on Freedom operations.
- Legal matters.

Membership Applications and Terminations

November's list of membership applications and December's list of terminations were sent to the board prior to the meeting.

A motion was made by Grapperhaus, seconded by Jennings, and carried to accept 90 applications for membership for November 2021, in accordance with Section 2 of the bylaws.

A motion was made by Nevinger, seconded by Hartlieb, and carried to formally acknowledge the termination of 10 memberships for December 2021, effective as of the date on which the cooperative ceased furnishing services, and the release of capital credits to the members' estates totaling to \$29,721.61.

Report on Director Education:

Warner attended NRECA's Winter School. He gave verbal and written reports on courses 2610 Understanding the Electric Business, 2620 Board Operations and Process, 2630 Strategic Planning, and 2640 Financial Decision Making. Warner has met the course requirements for NRECA's Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate.

Jennings participated in the Touchstone Energy's Annual Electronic Business meeting on behalf of SWECI. He gave a verbal and written report to the board.

Unfinished Business:

We have received the executed agreements from SWECI member number 37470 claimants.

The 2022 proposed budget will be presented at 5 p.m. on January 27, 2022, with the regular board meeting to immediately follow.

The board discussed joining the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC). On a motion made by Gaffner, seconded by Warner, and carried; SWECI will offer a three-year membership commitment with full privileges to AIEC, under the pretense that they phase-in the dues owed at 1/3 for the first year, 2/3 for the second year, and full dues for the third year.

New Business:

On a motion by Hartlieb, seconded by Stine and carried, the following members were appointed by the board of directors to serve on the 2022 Operation Round-Up Committee:

- Charlotte Weber, Edwardsville;
- Diane Schmid, Edwardsville;
- Michele McEvers, Sorento;
- Sue Backs, Greenville;
- Angela Reeter, Vandalia;
- Brady Kramer, Farina.

The 2022 Touchstone Energy Membership dues are due and payable in the amount of \$16,999. Payment will be considered at January's board meeting during unfinished business.


Board consideration is needed to adopt the proposed calendar for 2022. A motion was made by Stine, seconded by Willman, and carried to adopt the 2022 calendar as presented.

A motion was made by Grapperhaus, seconded by Hartlieb, and carried to approve a \$6,000 ERC loan for SWECI member number 53766 for an air conditioning system.


A motion was made by Nevinger, seconded by Hartlieb, and carried to appoint Gaffner as the voting delegate for NRTC's Annual Meeting. A motion was made by Nevinger, seconded by Stine, and carried to appoint Jennings as the alternate for NRTC's Annual Meeting.

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.


Annette Hartlieb, Secretary

Attest:


Ann Schwarm, President

