

Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
March 23, 2023
Greenville, IL

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held on Thursday, March 23, 2023, at 6:00 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 Chief Executive Officer Bobby Williams, Chief Financial Officer Becky Jacobson, Chief Operating Officer Marvin Ayala, and Executive Assistant Brooke Scott.

Executive Session:

At 6:01 p.m., Grapperhaus made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss Freedom Operations and personnel matters. Gaffner seconded; motion carried. At 7:21 p.m., Hartlieb made a motion to leave executive session. Warner seconded; motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the regular board meeting held on February 23, 2023, were considered. On a motion made by Warner, seconded by Hartlieb and carried, the minutes were approved as presented.

The meeting recessed at 7:32 p.m. and reconvened at 7:40 p.m.

Staff Reports & Presentations

Report of Operations and Construction

CFO Becky Jacobson's report included:

- Update on projects and other matters.
 - 2022 Year-end financials.
 - Audit.
 - Form 7.
 - Form 990.
 - Cash.
 - Largest Consumers Based on Revenue report.

Operating Report and Work Order Summary Approval:

Grappnerhaus made a motion to approve the Operating Report and Work Order Summary in the amount of \$718,840.59 for December 2022. Jennings seconded; motion carried.

CEO's Report:

CEO Bobby Williams' report included:

- No lost time accidents.
- Safety Day.
- Member matters.
- National Awards for Communications Department.
- Property updates.
- Work Plan project update.
- Annual Meeting.

Membership Applications and Terminations:

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

A motion was made by Nevinger, seconded by Stine, and carried to accept 59 applications for membership for February 2023, in accordance with Section 2 of the bylaws.

A motion was made by Jennings, seconded by Warner, and carried to formally acknowledge the termination of 11 memberships for March 2023, effective as of the date on which the cooperative ceased furnishing services, and the release of capital credits to the members' estates totaling to \$30,461.15.

Committee Reports:

Policy & Bylaws Committee:

The Policy & Bylaws Committee met on March 23 at 5:00 p.m. at the Greenville Headquarters to review the *Personal Protective Equipment Policy* and to discuss the creation of a *Succession Planning Policy*. Chairperson Warner gave a report on the committee's recommended revisions.

A motion was made by Warner, seconded by Hartlieb, and carried to approve the revised *Personal Protective Equipment Policy* as presented.

Report on AIEC Board Meeting:

Schwarm attended the AIEC Board Meeting on March 16. She gave a verbal report to the board. Topics of discussion included the Youth Day tour, Lobby Day, continuing education courses, business continuity plan, legislative bills that may impact cooperatives, and an introduction to Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. from President/CEO Mike Casper.

Warner left the meeting at 9:22 p.m.

Report on Director Training:

Jennings attended the PowerXchange Conference. He gave a verbal and written report to the board on his takeaways from this year's meeting. Some of the topics discussed were leading into the future, data collection, technology, strategic plan, communication, legislation, and reliability.

Unfinished Business:

Facility needs and the Cooperative's Strategic Plan were discussed at length. A special board meeting will be scheduled to discuss this topic further.

Williams confirmed that we have seen recent movement from our software provider on our bill statements and pending rates.

New Business:

No new business was discussed.

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.


Annette Hartlieb, Secretary

Attest:


Ann Schwarm, President