

LUMBEE RIVER ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION  
Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Board of Directors  
November 16, 2021

Pursuant to due notice thereof, a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation was held at the Corporation's headquarters in Pembroke, North Carolina, beginning at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday November 16, 2021. Directors present were Chairman Rory Eddings, Madam Vice-Chair Madie R. Locklear, Secretary Ronald G. Hammonds, Treasurer Anthony Hunt, Spencer Locklear, Elaine O. Chavis, Kirk Lowry, Roger Oxendine, Eric Locklear, Rhonda Goins Dial, Sherry Carter, Autry Lowry, and James Hardin. Also, present were CEO Shawn Hunt, and Grady Hunt representing Hunt & Brooks, the Corporation's general counsel.

Chairman Rory Eddings called the meeting to order, and prayer was said by Mr. Kirk Lowery.

1. Chairman Eddings spoke briefly concerning Policy 421 and the confusion that the policy has caused for members of the corporation.
2. The agenda was approved by modifying item 7 to add matching the Employee Associations Christmas Care Fund and deleting Item 7 F, Policy Committee Meeting. A MOTION WAS DULY MADE AND RESOLVED TO APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.
3. Members comments were presented by Lynn Locklear concerning Policy 421 (Member Requests to Attend Board Meetings); (comments attached) and Patsy Chavis on behalf of Great Light Community Church commented on Policy 421(Member Requests to Attend Board Meetings).
4. A MOTION WAS DULY MADE AND RESOLVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING ON OCTOBER 19, 2021.
5. Mr. Mark Walters presented the Safety Report indicating that there were two property incidents at the Raeford Substation involving copper theft. He reported there had been improvements of the lighting at the Raeford substation and cameras ordered to record the activity at the substation. He further reported that all substations have adequate lighting. There were no employee incidents for the month of October 2021 and 14 noted safety observations. A MOTION WAS DULY MADE AND RESOLVED TO APPROVE THE SAFETY REPORT.
6. Mr. Ronald G. Hammonds reviewed the secretary report with the directors. A MOTION WAS DULY MADE AND RESOLVED TO APPROVE THE SECRETARY REPORT.
7. Mr. Tony Hunt reviewed the Treasurer Report (Form 7) with the directors for the month of October 2021. A MOTION WAS DULY MADE AND RESOLVED TO APPROVE THE TREASURER REPORT (FORM 7).
8. Mrs. Lea Hewett reviewed the October 2021 Finances and Estate Retirements. A MOTION WAS DULY MADE AND RESOLVED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 2021 ESTATE RETIREMENTS.

9. Mr. Walter White gave an update on the LREMC Newsletter.
10. The CEO gave an update on several items to include pole replacement for Broadband, employee retirements at Statewide, vaccinations of employees, incidents, request for information processed in October, the Connect Safe Program and items from the retreat.
11. Mr. Shawn Hunt, CEO, gave an update on office closures in Laurinburg and Fairmont. He further discussed the utilizations for the Fairmont and Laurinburg offices and further discussed the opportunity to add Western Union as an additional form of payment for \$1.50 per payment. He indicated that there were several hundred locations of Western Unions in the service territory. He further noted that the office closures would be effective at the end of the first quarter in 2022. A MOTION WAS DULY MADE AND RESOLVED TO APPROVE THE OFFICE CLOSURES AT LAURINBURG AND FAIRMONT AT THE END OF THE FIRST QUARTER 2022.
12. Mr. Rory Eddings discussed matters of interest to include upcoming meeting and trainings, a Thank You card for the Capital Credit check, District 6 voting, director term limits, a special called Board Meeting on November 22, 2021 and the Christmas Care Fund Money Matching in the amount of \$3,628.00. A MOTION WAS DULY MADE AND RESOLVED TO APPROVE THE CHRISTMAS CARE Fund MONEY MATCHING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,628.00.
13. A MOTION WAS DULY MADE TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION.
14. Ms. Cynthia Stiles gave an update on personnel matters to the Directors.
15. Matt Epps presented Resolution 2021-13, St. Pauls to North Lumberton OPGW Addition Contract. A MOTION WAS DULY MADE AND RESOLVED TO AWARD THE CONTRACT TO EAST COAST ELECTRIC, Inc. for \$412,167.12.
16. Matt Epps presented Resolution 2021-14, Substation Mowing Contract for 2022-2024. A MOTION WAS DULY MADE AND RESOLVED TO AWARD THE CONTRACT TO S&S BROTHERS LAWN CARE SERVICES for \$69,300.00.
17. Matt Epps presented Resolution 2021-15, Non-Site Specific Overhead Distribution System construction Contract for 2022-2024. A MOTION WAS DULY MADE AND RESOLVED TO APPROVE THE OVERHEAD DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM CONTRACT TO EAST COAST ELECTRIC, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,000,000.0.

At this time the Executive staff were excused.

18. Chairman Rory Eddings opened up discussion on director compensation. The director compensation is currently \$650.00 per month in stipend pay and \$300.00 each meeting. A MOTION WAS DULY MADE AND RESOLVED TO LEAVE THE CURRENT DIRECTOR COMPENSATION AS IS.

The CEO and Ms. Kim Chavis were excused from the Executive Session.

19. There was a discussion in Executive Session concerning the termination of Shawn Hunt, the current CEO. A MOTION WAS DULY MADE AND RESOLVED TO TERMINATE THE CEO EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. Those voting in favor to terminate the CEO were Ronald G. Hammonds, Rhonda Goins Dial, Tony Hunt, Kirk Lowery, Eric Locklear, and Madie R. Locklear. Those opposed to terminating the CEO were Sherry Carter, Elaine Chavis, James Hardin, Spencer Locklear and Autry Lowry. Roger Oxendine abstained from the vote. MOTION CARRIED.
20. A MOTION WAS DULY MADE AND RESOLVED TO APPOINT RANDALL JONES AS THE INTERIM CEO EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AT THE SAME SALARY AS THE CURRENT CEO. All voted in favor of the motion except for Sherry Carter.
21. A MOTION WAS DULY MADE AND RESOLVED TO BEGIN THE SEARCH FOR A NEW CEO EFFECTIVE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 2022 YEAR. The vote was unanimous.
22. A MOTION WAS DULY MADE AND RESOLVED TO LEAVE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.
23. A MOTION WAS DULY MADE TO ADJOURN.

  
RORY EDDINGS, CHAIRMAN

  
RONALD G. HAMMONDS, SECRETARY

POINTS LREMC BOARD MEETING

~~August~~ 2021

November

Good evening to all the Board Directors, and I extend a warm welcome to the two newly elected directors, Director's Goins and Lowery.

Tonight I want to speak about the relationship between the board and its members and highlight some disconnects in that relationship and suggest some potential solutions. The following statement from the bylaws sets the standard for the relationship between the board and its members:

"Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation **belongs** to the **members it serves**. That means **members have a say in how our co-op is run**. And with **members in charge**, you can feel confident that the **decisions made are in your best interest** and the **best interest of your community**. Doesn't that sound good?"

Yes it sounds good, but how many board directors can testify tonight that the board is living up to that standard? If you believe the board is living up to that standard, then why did this board vote to make a policy change that restricts member's ability to come before this board to address member concerns? In reality, the recent policy change to policy 421 essentially says to the members "shut up, we don't want to hear what you have to say". This is the literal message the policy change sends to member owners and it does not meet the standard established in the bylaws. And in reality, I don't believe it's the board's intent to send that kind of message. And I know it is definitely not the message presented during the election cycle. How do we improve the relationship?

Frist, change the policy to allow members to speak by simply signing up the night of the meeting with no limitation other than the time limit. Second, when member owners present issues to the board, simply add it to the agenda, work the issue, and provide a board response via a vote once the board considers the issue. How many times have myself and others been before this board asking the board to consider issues such as term limits, live streaming meetings, having committee directors summarize their committee minutes, and having one agenda for the meetings only for the request to fall on deaf ears with no action by the board? Third, if a member comes before the board and presents an issue, how about tasking the district director for that member to take the lead to work the issue with the board? If you don't like tasking directors, how about creating a committee whose sole purpose is to work member issues on behalf of the board?

The member owners deserve the respect of the board just as board directors expect to be respected in their capacity of board director.



Lynn E. Locklear  
LREMC Member Owner  
Red Springs, NC



RESOLUTION 2021-13

LUMBEE RIVER EMC

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

St. Pauls to North Lumberton OPGW Addition Contract

I, Ronald G. Hammonds, do hereby certify that: I am Secretary of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation (hereinafter called the "Cooperative"); that I am the keeper of the official records, minutes and seal of the Cooperative; that the following is a true and exact copy of an excerpt from the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held November 16, 2021.

**WHEREAS**, multiple quotes were received and reviewed for the St. Pauls to North Lumberton OPGW Addition RUS Form 830 contract; and

**WHEREAS**, all permissible bids were found to be valid and in conformance with the specifications, East Coast Electric, Inc., being the apparent low quote with a total price of \$412,167.22; and

**WHEREAS**, upon recommendation by the Cooperative Consulting Engineer, Electrical Consulting Engineers, and the Lumbee River EMC Engineering Department and Fiber Department that this project be awarded to, East Coast Electric, Inc.; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation hereby approves the award of this contract to East Coast Electric, Inc. and instructs the LREMC Engineering Department and Fiber Department to proceed with the construction schedule.

**IN WITNESS HEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Cooperative this 16th day of November 2021.

  
Ronald G. Hammonds, Secretary



RESOLUTION #2021- 14

LUMBEE RIVER EMC

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2022-2024 Substation Mowing Contract

I, Ronald G. Hammonds, do hereby certify that: I am Secretary of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation (hereinafter called the "Cooperative"): that I am the keeper of the official records, minutes and seal of the Cooperative; that the following is a true and exact copy of an excerpt from the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held November 16, 2021.

**WHEREAS**, multiple quotes were received and reviewed for the 2022-2024 Substation Mowing contract; and


**WHEREAS**, all permissible bids were found to be valid and in conformance with the specifications, S & S Brothers Lawn Care Services, being the apparent low quote with a total price of \$69,300; and

**WHEREAS**, upon recommendation by the Lumbee River EMC Engineering Department that this project be awarded to, S & S Brothers Lawn Care Services; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation hereby approves the award of this contract to S & S Brothers Lawn Care Services and instructs the LREMC Engineering Department to proceed with the mowing schedule.

**IN WITNESS HEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Cooperative this 16th day of November 2021.



  
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Ronald G. Hammonds, Secretary

RESOLUTION 2021-15

LUMBEE RIVER EMC

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2022-2024 Non-Site Specific Overhead Distribution System Construction Contract

I, Ronald G. Hammonds, do hereby certify that: I am Secretary of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation (hereinafter called the "Cooperative"); that I am the keeper of the official records, minutes and seal of the Cooperative; that the following is a true and exact copy of an excerpt from the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held November 16, 2021.

**WHEREAS**, multiple quotes were received and reviewed for the 2022-2024 Non-Site Specific Overhead Distribution System Construction RUS Form 790 contract; and


**WHEREAS**, all permissible bids were found to be valid and in conformance with the specifications, East Coast Electrical, Inc. being the awarded company with a bid not to exceed \$5,000,000.00; and

**WHEREAS**, upon recommendation by the Cooperative Consulting Engineer, Electrical Consulting Engineers, and the Lumbee River EMC Engineering Department that this project be awarded to, East Coast Electric, Inc.; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation hereby approves the award of this contract to East Coast Electric, Inc. and instructs the LREMC Engineering Department to proceed with the construction schedule.

**IN WITNESS HEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Cooperative this 16th day of November 2021.



  
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Ronald G. Hammonds, Secretary