

Minutes  
Meeting of Trustees of the Arab Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Monday, May 22, 2023, at 6:00 pm  
Arab Electric Cooperative, Inc. Auditorium

1. Roll Call—Trustees Present: Janet Bright-District 1; Jordan Stewart-District; Dianne Prestridge-District 3; Bill Stricklend-District 4; Tyler Barnes-District 5; Jeff Warren-District 6 (via Zoom); Charles W Whisenant-District 8; and Ty Smith-District 9. No trustees were absent. Also present were Stacey White-General Manager (via Zoom); Clint Maze-Board Attorney, Cooperative Employees, and other members of the public. Trustee Nathan Clark-District 7 was absent.
2. Invocation (Agenda Item #2)—Clint Maze
3. Pledge of Allegiance (Agenda Item #3)—Bill Stricklend
4. Approval of the Agenda (Agenda Item #4)—Prior to the approval of the Agenda, the President called for an amendment to the agenda to add approval of contracting for fiber internet lines for all of the substations. Tyler Barnes made a motion to amend the agenda as requested, seconded by Jordan Steward. The motion was approved with 7 ayes and 0 nays. Thereafter, Bill Stricklend made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Janet Bright. The motion passed with 7 ayes and 0 nays.
5. Approval of the Minutes (Agenda Items #5)—There was a motion to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2023, Regular Meeting of the Trustees made by Dianne Prestridge, seconded by Bill Stricklend. Motion passed with 7 ayes and 0 nays.
6. Approval of the Minutes (Agenda Items #6)—There was a motion to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2023, Special Meeting of the Trustees made by Ty Smith, seconded by Janet Bright. Motion passed with 7 ayes and 0 nays.
7. Management Update (Agenda Item #7)— The General Manager presented the Three-Month Cash/Investment Accounts Balances Report, the Monthly Report to TVA, the Monthly Operational Budget Report and the Monthly Collection and Meter Department Report for April 2023. The reports were emailed out to the Board prior to the meeting and are made a part of the minutes. The net income for April 2023 was \$89,421.27. The General Manager reported that a restitution payment was received from Jack Willis’s AREA retirement account, which will be reported on June’s financials. The General Manager updated the Board on expenses which were up due to recent storms, reported that Corbitt is presently at 105% of the budgeted amount for electrical work and that their work on the electrical system has been suspended, but that Corbitt continues to work on the right of way maintenance. Additionally, the General Manager reported the interest that TVA pays in the prepaid account is presently at 4.71% and that there are only 8 non-AMI meters remaining on the system.
8. Action Item: Contract for Fiber Lines to Substations (Amended Agenda Item)—There was a discussion about the need to secure a fiber line to connect the security system to all of the

substations. The proposal from GoNetSpeed was \$1,195 per month, which equaled \$170.71 per month per substation connected. The internet connection is required for the security cameras and will be needed if a SCADA system is ever added. After discussion, Jordan Stewart made a motion to enter into a service agreement with GoNetSpeed, seconded by Bill Stricklend. The motion passed with 6 ayes and Jeff Warren voting nay.

Further, the proposals for security cameras for the substations discussed by the Board. Each proposal was analyzed and the benefits and detriments for each were listed. The finance committee, along with Jordan Stewart, recommended that the Tusco be engaged to provide the security cameras. The proposal would cost a total of \$114,311.00, which is approximately \$16,000 per substation. No action was taken. This will be an action item in a subsequent meeting.

9. Personnel Committee<sup>1</sup> Update (Agenda Item #8)—The Personnel Committee had no report.

10. Finance Committee<sup>2</sup> Update (Agenda Item #9)—The Finance Committee financial arrangements for construction cost for the current projects. The two large expenditures are the Sundown Substation upgrade and the upgrade at Arab-Primary. The report for information only and there was no recommended action on this report.

11. Right of Way Committee<sup>3</sup> Update (Agenda Item #10)—The Right of Way Committee reviewed the bids received for the trimming of the right of way for the Arab District Substation. There is approximately \$100,000 in the ROW budget remaining for this fiscal year. The ROW Committee recommended awarding the contract to Corbitt and giving a notice to proceed on Breakers 214 and 234 in this fiscal year, and then breakers 224 and 244 July and August, which is the next fiscal year. Bill Stricklend made a motion to this effect, seconded by Dianne Prestridge. The motion passed with 7 ayes and 0 nays.

12. Old Business (Agenda Item #11)—Mrs. White informed the Board there was nothing new to report on the Sundown Substation.

13. Discussion Item: Roof for Headquarters (Agenda Item # 12)—This item was postponed to the June Meeting.

14. Discussion Item: Reconduct Farm Supply Road to Telephone Road (Agenda Item # 13)—The need to reconduct Farm Supply Road to Telephone Road was explained to the board and the cost were discussed. The Board received quotes from Corbitt for \$196,500. Southern Line Utilities for 108,158.56, and Power Grid for 89,667.81. After discussion, Jordan Stewart made a motion

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<sup>1</sup> The Personnel Committee is comprised of Tyler Barnes—Chairman, Janet Bright, Dianne Prestridge, and Jeff Warren. The General Manager—*Ex Officio*, Kellie Garrett, Wayne Mahathey and Mike King are employee representatives on the Personnel Committee.

<sup>2</sup> The Finance Committee is comprised of Bill Stricklend—Chairman, Dianne Prestridge, Nathan Clark, and the General Manager—*Ex Officio*.

<sup>3</sup> The Right of Way Committee is comprised of Nathan Clark—Chairman, Janet Bright, Tyler Barnes, Ty Smith, the General Manager—*Ex Officio*, and the Right of Way Supervisor, Brett Barnard—*Ex Officio*.

to suspend the rules and make this an action item, seconded by Bill Stricklend. The motion was approved with 7 ayes and 0 nays. With the rules suspended, there was a motion to award the bid to Power Grid by Bill Stricklend, seconded by Ty Smith. The motion was approved with 7 ayes and 0 nays.

15. Action Item: Medical Insurance Policy (Agenda Item #14)—The Board of Trustees Insurance Policy was reviewed and discussed. After discussion, Bill Stricklend made a motion to discontinue offering health insurance for active or previous Board Members. The policy changes will be effective June 1, 2023. The motion was seconded by Dianne Prestridge. The Motion was approved with 7 ayes and 0 nays.

16. Declaration of Surplus Items: (Agenda Item # 13)—The General Manager that were no items to be declared as surplus.

17. Member comments (Agenda Item #14)—There was an opportunity given for member comments and comments and none were received.

18. There was an announcement that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees would be held on June 26, 2023, at 6:00 pm at the Cooperative Headquarters Auditorium.

19. Adjourn—There was a motion by Jordan Steward, seconded by Ty Smith, to adjourn. Motion passed with 7 ayes and 0 nays.