

Minutes
Meeting of Trustees of the Arab Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Monday, July 24, 2023, at 6:00 pm
Arab Electric Cooperative, Inc. Auditorium

1. Roll Call—Trustees Present: Jordan Stewart-District 2; Dianne Prestridge-District 3; Bill Stricklend-District 4; Jeff Warren-District 6; Nathan Clark-District 7; Charles W Whisenant-District 8; and Ty Smith-District 9 (present via Zoom). Also present were Stacey White-General Manager; Clint Maze-Board Attorney, Cooperative Employees, and other members of the public. Trustees Janet Bright-District 1 and Tyler Barnes-District 5 were absent.
2. Invocation (Agenda Item #2)—Jeff Warren
3. Pledge of Allegiance (Agenda Item #3)—Bill Stricklend
4. Approval of the Agenda (Agenda Item #4)—The Board attorney requested that the agenda be amended to remove the approval of the minutes from the June 26, 2023 minutes from the regular meeting be placed on the next agenda. Nathan Clark made a motion to amend the agenda and approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Dianne Prestridge. The motion to amend was approved with 6 ayes and 0 nays. Thereafter, Bill Stricklend made a motion to approve the agenda, as amended, seconded by Nathan Clark. The motion passed with 6 ayes and 0 nays.
5. Approval of the Minutes (Agenda Items #5)—Jeff Warren made a motion for the approval of the minutes of the May 22, 2023, Regular Meeting of the Trustees, seconded by Jordan Stewart. The motion passed with 6 ayes and 0 nays.
6. Approval of the Minutes (Agenda Items #6)—Dianne Prestridge made a motion for the approval the minutes of the June 14, 2023, Special Meeting of the Trustees, seconded by Jeff Warren. The motion passed with 6 ayes and 0 nays.
7. Management Update (Agenda Item #8)— 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 May 2023. The reports were emailed out to the Board prior to the meeting and are made a part of the minutes. The net loss for June 2023 was (\$53,114.27), which included an end of the fiscal year adjustment for unbilled revenue. The General Manager noted that the TVA interest rate had increased on the prepayment account to 5.04%. The General Manager also informed the Board that fiber internet to the substations was almost complete, and that installation of the security cameras have been started and is expected to be completed soon.

The General Manager further informed the Board that Cooperative employees will be doing work on two or three substations in the upcoming weeks, that the inventory complete in June 2023 was really good, that auditors had been on site the week or July 17-24, 2023, and that the mapping-outage management system is complete.

8. Personnel Committee¹ Update (Agenda Item #9)—The Personnel Committee had no report.
9. Finance Committee² Update (Agenda Item #10)—The Finance Committee had no report.
10. Right of Way Committee³ Update (Agenda Item #11)—The General Manager reported that the spraying of the right of ways for the Georgia Mountain substation is complete, with the exception for the portion located on Alabama Highway 69 which requires ALDOT approval. Spraying for Breaker 214 will start next week.
11. Old Business (Agenda Item #12)—Mrs. White informed the Board that TVA has projected that the Sundown substation will be placed in service in the fall of 2025 and that a proposed ROW map is expected July 25, 2023 and that the next step is for TVA to conduct a scoping meeting.
12. Discussion Item: Bids for pole change outs (Agenda Item # 13)—Bids were received from eight different vendors for 100 poles to be changed out over the next six months. In 2020, 120 poles were changed out for the sum of \$622,000 and in 2021, 120 poles were changed out for the sum of \$665,000. The low bidder was PowerPros in the amount of \$148,000.00. After the bids were reviewed, Jeff Warren made a motion to suspend the rules and make awarding the contract an action item, seconded by Jordan Stewart. The motion passed with 6 ayes and 0 nays. With the rules suspended, Jeff Warren made a motion to award the contract for the pole change outs to PowerPros in the amount of \$148,000.00, seconded by Bill Stricklend. The motion passed with 6 ayes and 0 nays.
13. Discussion Item: Bobcat (Agenda Item # 14)—In 2018 the Cooperative purchased a Bobcat for \$95,145. The piece of equipment is malfunctioning with the mulching head the problem is suspected to be electrical in nature. The attempted repair will cost \$6,000 and there will not be any guarantee that the repair will be successful. It is recommended that the 2018 Bobcat be repaired and used as needed. Further, the Board requested that bids be requested for new piece Bobcat that has a high flow external oil cooler.
14. Declaration of Surplus Items: (Agenda Item # 15)—The General Manager that were no items to be declared as surplus.
15. Member comments (Agenda Item #16)—There was an opportunity given for member comments and comments and Colin Walls asked a question about the orange ribbons on AEC poles.

¹ 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.

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

³ 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*.

16. There was an announcement that the AEC Annual Meeting would be held on August 28, 2023, at 6:00 pm at the Cooperative Headquarters Auditorium.

17. Adjourn—There was a motion by Jeff Warren, seconded by Ty Smith, to adjourn. Motion passed with 6 ayes and 0 nays.