

Minutes
Meeting of Trustees of the Arab Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Monday, March 20, 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; Nathan Clark-District 7; Charles W Whisenant-District 8 (by telephone conference); and Ty Smith-District 9. No trustees were absent. Also present were Stacey White-General Manager; Clint Maze-Board Attorney, Cooperative Employees, and other members of the public. Due to sickness, the Board President was present by telephone conference and the meeting was called to order by The Board Vice President, Dianne Prestridge.
2. Invocation (Agenda Item #2)—Clint Maze
3. Pledge of Allegiance (Agenda Item #3)—Bill Stricklend
4. Approval of the Agenda (Agenda Item #4)—Jeff Warren a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Bill Stricklend. The motion passed with 8 ayes and 0 nays.
5. Approval of the Minutes (Agenda Items #5)—There was a motion to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2023, Regular Meeting of the Trustees made by Ty Smith seconded by Janet Bright. Motion passed with 8 ayes and 0 nays.
6. Management Update (Agenda Item #6)— 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 February 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 February 2023 was \$743,808.80. The total cost for the storm damage from the March 2023 storms was \$195,417.63 for Marshall, Morgan, and Cullman Counties. The General Manager reported that the mapping system is complete, except for several logistical matters and should be functional within two-three weeks. The Cooperative has now received all AMI meters, and all but 10 meters have been installed. The AMI meter installation is nearing completion.
7. Personnel Committee¹ Update (Agenda Item #7)—The Personnel Committee had no report.
8. Finance Committee² Update (Agenda Item #8)—The Finance Committee had no report.

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*.

9. Right of Way Committee³ Update (Agenda Item #9)—The Right of Way Committee had no report. The General Manager advised the Board request for bids have been sent out for the trimming of the right of way for the Arab District Substation and that the bids are due back by April 2023.

10. Old Business (Agenda Item #10)—Mrs. White informed the Board there was nothing new to report on the Sundown Substation.

11. Discussion Item: Standby pickup truck (Agenda Item # 11)—Mrs. White informed the Board that the current Standby truck is a 2013 with over 300,000 miles and it has water leaks in the cab. The Standby department has requested a used truck that will meet the requirements. The General Manager reported that in the current market, there are very few options for used vehicles. Due to potential for maintenance issues and the general desire for a warranty, members of the Board expressed a desire to have a 2020 or newer. The General Manager did inform the board that a 2024 Chevrolet four door, four-wheel drive would be available in May 2024 for the purchase price of \$57,175. After further discussion, Bill Stricklend made a motion to suspend the rules and make this an action item, seconded by Jordan Stewart. The motion passes with 8 yeas and 0 nays. With the rules suspended, Bill Stricklend made a motion to authorize the purchase of a 2020 or newer Standby pickup truck with the price no to exceed \$57,175, with a new truck being preferred unless the savings of purchasing a used exceeds \$8,000-10,000, with the ultimate decision being left to the General Manager with the advice and consent of the Cooperative mechanic, seconded by Jordan Stewart. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 0 nays.

12. Discussion Item: Storm Work Pay Policy (Agenda Item # 12)—Mrs. White, giving the recent storm damage call out for employees, was requested to survey other cooperatives as to how their employees are paid during storm related emergencies. The survey of other cooperatives has been conducted and the policies have been edited to produce the policy that has been presented to the Board. The proposed policy was discussed at length, and it was requested that the Personnel Committee review the policy and make a recommendation. This will be an agenda item in the April Board of Trustees Meeting.

13. Action Item: SCADA System (Agenda Item #13)—During a work session just prior to the Board Meeting, Fisher Arnold made a presentation to the Board on the benefits and cost of the SCADA. The trustees had many questions about SCADA, and it interested in pursuing the system further. However, “regardless” of whether the Cooperative pursues SCADA, there are significant upgrades required to Arab Primary Substation which are needed, but that will also be beneficial if the SCADA system is implemented. The lead time for the required upgrades is 10-12 months out and are long overdue. Based on these discussions, Bill Stricklend made a motion to authorize the Arab Primary Substation upgrades at an estimated cost of \$1,210,000, seconded by Charles Whisenant. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 0 nays.

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*.

14. Declaration of Surplus Items: (Agenda Item # 14)—The General Manager that were no items to be declared as surplus.

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

16. There was an announcement that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees would be held on April 24, 2023, at 6:00 pm at the Cooperative Headquarters Auditorium.

17. Adjourn—There was a motion by Jordan Stewart, seconded by Tyler Barnes, to adjourn. Motion passed with 8 ayes and 0 nays.