

Minutes  
Meeting of Trustees of the Arab Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Monday, March 28, 2022 at 6:00 pm  
Arab Electric Cooperative, Inc. Auditorium

1. Roll Call—Trustees Present: Janet Bright-District 1, Chris Hemphill-District 2, 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 and Trustee Ty Smith-District 9. Also present were Stacey White-General Manager; Clint Maze-Board Attorney, Cooperative Employees, and other members of the public.
2. Invocation (Agenda Item #2)—Attorney Clint Maze
3. Pledge of Allegiance (Agenda Item #3)—Bill Stricklend
4. Approval of the Agenda (Agenda Item #4)—Janet Bright made a motion approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Ty Smith. Motion passed with 8 yeas and 0 nays.
5. Approval of the Minutes (Agenda Item #5)—There was a motion to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Trustees made by Dianne Prestridge, seconded by Nathan Clark. Motion passed with 8 yeas 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 2022. Bill Stricklend requested that each Operational Budget presented to the Board reflect the percentage used to date of the budget. The reports are made a part of the minutes.

The General Manager informed the Board that AMI meters the Cooperative has been waiting on have not been delivered. Additionally, the Digger Derrick delivery has been delayed until at least 2022. The annual Foundation Scholarship have been awarded and the recipients were selected by AREA. There was a student from Arab, Brindlee Mountain, and a home school student. The General Manager advised the Board that ESRI's mapping is going well. ERSI was very complimentary of the condition the right of way.

7. Personnel Committee<sup>1</sup> Update (Agenda Item #7)—The Personnel Committee Chairman presented the proposed job description for a distribution engineer. The Personnel Committee recommended, and Committee Chairman Chris Hemphill made a motion that the Board approve the proposed job description for a distribution engineer, seconded by Janet Bright. Motion passed with 8 yeas and 0 nays.

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

8. Finance Committee<sup>2</sup> Update (Agenda Item #8)—The Finance Committee Chairman reported that there was no update.

9. Right of Way Committee<sup>3</sup> Update (Agenda Item #9)—The Right of Way Committee Chairman reported that 15 bid packages have been sent out for the Georgia Mountain Span and 5 bids are expected to be submitted. The bids are due back on March 31, 2022.

10. Old Business (Agenda Item #10)—Mrs. White informed the Board that everything has been submitted to TVA for the Sundown Substation and there will be nothing further to report until TVA has evaluated the plans. The General Manager reported that the work on the exit feeders for the Brashiers Chapel Substation continues, but one crew has been taken off of the exit feeders for work on the City of Arab Project on 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Once the 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue project is finished, Corbitt's second crew will resume work on the exit feeders.

11. Discussion Item: Matching TVA funds for Marshall County Economic Development and Arab Industrial Development Boards (Agenda Item # 11)—The General Manager advised the Board that it is time to consider the TVA Regional Industrial Development Authority Contract for industrial recruitment, development and expansion in the Cooperative service area wherein the Cooperative can contribute an amount towards industrial development and TVA will reimburse the Cooperative for one half of the contribution, up to \$14,921. This will be an action item at a future meeting.

12. Discussion Item: Update on Dental Insurance Premiums (Agenda Item # 12)—The Cooperative has been notified that the dental insurance premiums are decreasing from \$17.88 to \$16.99. The General Manager recommended that cost savings be passed to the employees.

13. Discussion Item: Bids on Line Work (Agenda Item # 13)—The Cooperative received bid for the line work for Old Cullman Road. Two companies submitted bids, PowerGrid Services at \$163,437.39 and Taylor Electric at \$226,650.62. Bill Stricklend made a motion to convert this to an action item, seconded by Nathan Clark. The motion to suspend the rules was approved with 8 yeas and 0 nays. With the rules suspended, Bill Stricklend made a motion to accept the bid of PowerGrid Services, seconded by Chris Hemphill. The motion was approved with 8 yeas and 0 nays.

14. Discussion Item: Purchase of Pick-up Truck (Agenda Item # 14)— The Cooperative has a 2014 truck with more than 260,000 miles. A replacement must be ordered and will take 4-6 months to take delivery. Based on the need, the General Manager recommended that an order be placed for two trucks. There is a TVA government price concession that is available. Gilbert & Baugh's price was \$38,850.50 and Clayton Chevrolet's price was \$40,910. Bill Stricklend made a motion to convert this to an action item, seconded by Dianne Prestridge. The motion to suspend the rules was approved with 8 yeas and 0 nays. With the rules suspended, Bill Stricklend made a motion to place an order for two trucks from Clayton Chevrolet with the existing trucks being sold on

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<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*.

GovDeals once they are taken out of service, seconded by Chris Hemphill. The motion was approved with 8 yeas and 0 nays.

15. Action Item: Cybersecurity Policy (Agenda Item # 15)—The proposed cybersecurity policy has been submitted to CSA for review and comments. There is no action required until CSA's review is complete.

16. Action Item: Pole Barn and Fence for South end of building (Agenda Item # 16)— The Cooperative received bids for the Pole Barn. The Summertown and Cecil Pigg Steel Truss bids did not include labor as the companies will not attach trusses to electric poles. Trusswalk submitted a bid for \$26,266.39 and Addison Steel Truss submitted a bid for \$35,905.32. Bill Strickland made a motion to award the bid to Trusswalk, seconded by Jeff Warren. The motion was approved with 8 yeas and 0 nays. Additionally, there was only one quote for the fencing for \$22,904 from Fourseasons Fencing. The Board expresses that it would like to secure additional quotes from any other available companies. However, Ty Smith made a motion to approve up to \$23,000 for fencing to be purchased at the discretion of the management, seconded by Nathan Clark. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 0 nays.

17. Declaration of Surplus Items: (Agenda Item # 17)—There are no item to declare as surplus for March 2022. In February 2022, a 2018 Ford Focus with 13,201 miles was declared as surplus and to be offered on Govdeals.com with the reserve set at \$15,203. The vehicle did not sell on GovDeals. Bill Strickland made a motion of offer the vehicle for sale privately and to accept the highest offer, seconded by Jeff Warren. The motion was approved with 8 yeas and 0 nays.

18. Member comments (Agenda Item #18)—There was an opportunity given for member comments. Melanie Martin addressed the Board again over 5G concerns from AMI meters. Additionally, Board Member used the opportunity to suggest that the Cooperative obtain a cyber security assessment. Mr. Hemphill will bring to the Board a proposal in a future meeting.

19. There was an announcement made that the April 2022 meeting of the Board of Trustees would be held on April 25, 2022 at 6:00 pm at the Cooperative Headquarters Auditorium.

20. Adjourn—There was a motion by Jeff Warren, seconded by Tyler Barnes, to adjourn. Motion passed with 8 yeas and 0 nays.