

Minutes
Meeting of Trustees of the Arab Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Monday, August 22, 2022, 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, Tyler Barnes-District 5; Jeff Warren-District 6; Nathan Clark¹-District 7, Charles W Whisenant-District 8, and Ty Smith-District 9. Also present were Stacey White-General Manager; Clint Maze-Board Attorney, Cooperative Employees, and other members of the public. Janet Bright-District 1 was absent.
2. Invocation (Agenda Item #2)—Clint L. Maze
3. Pledge of Allegiance (Agenda Item #3)—Bill Stricklend
4. Approval of the Amended Agenda (Agenda Item #4)—The President called for an amendment to the agenda to a new proposed policy addressing approve payment types for power bills. Jeff Warren made a motion to amend the agenda to add the proposed payment policy, seconded by Dianne Prestridge. The motion passes with 7 ayes and 0 nays. Thereafter, Jeff Warren made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Tyler Barnes. 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 July 25, 2022, Regular Meeting of the Trustees made by Jordan Stewart, seconded by Dianne Prestridge. 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 August 9, 2022, Special Meeting of the Trustees made by Ty Smith, seconded by Jeff Warren. 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 May 2022. The reports were emailed out to the Board prior to the meeting and are made a part of the minutes.

The TVA bill is running approximately \$2.7 Million monthly. Presently TVA is paying 1.3% interest on Cooperative deposits. The Cooperative is paying its bill to TVA as soon as it is received so that there is three to four weeks of interest that is being earned by the cooperative. That is a return of nearly \$3,000 for paying the bill early.

The Cooperative is still awaiting delivery of approximately 300 AMI meters, of which 248 need to be installed. The remainder will be inventory for new members. Until the SMI meters are installed, the conventional meters will continue to be read manually.

¹ Trustee Clark participated via Zoom video Conference.

The Orbit One payment system will be going live August 25, 2022. There will be a proving period, but the Cooperative staff is very excited to roll this out for the members. The mapping process is continuing. Brindlee Mountain and Union Grove Substations have been completed and now mapping of the Georgia Mountain Substation is now underway.

8. Personnel Committee² Update (Agenda Item #8)—The Personnel Committee has presented a proposed policy to address military leave for cooperative employees who are in the reserves and/or national guard. The proposed policy will provide any eligible employee with 15 days of leave for each 12 months at the employee's full rate of pay. If the leave extends beyond 15 workdays, then the benefits will continue and the employees' portion will be deducted from the employee's pay. Tyler Barnes made a motion to adopt the policy as recommended by the Personnel Committee, which was seconded by Bill Stricklend. The motion passed with 7 ayes and 0 nays.

9. Finance Committee³ Update (Agenda Item #9)—The Finance Committee had no report. The Chairman advised the Board that there is a meeting scheduled with Guy Caffey and Adam O'Shields on September 26, 2022 at 4:30 pm.

10. Right of Way Committee⁴ Update (Agenda Item #10)—The Right of Way Committee reported on the use of helicopter for ROW clearing, in conjunction with other area electric companies and cooperatives, which is scheduled for August 25, 2022. There was no other report.

11. Old Business (Agenda Item #11)—Mrs. White informed the Board that all exit feeders on the Brashiers Chapel Substation are now in service. Cooperative staff is working with Fisher Arnold to place additional load to the Brashiers Chapel Substation. On Sundown, the transformer bids were received. One transformer will cost \$1.2 million, and the upgrades will require two transformers. The Cooperative is still waiting on an appraisal for the property needed from Brazelton Properties, Inc.

12. Discussion Item: (Agenda Item #11) The Material Shed Draining Issues. The General Manager received a quote from Pivotal, LLC for addressing the drainage issues around the new material shed at \$6,500. This will be an action item in the next meeting.

13. Discussion Item: (Amended Agenda Item #13) Payment Method Policy. The Cooperative staff received a payment from a member in pennies, as a result of the member being disgruntled over a late fee being accessed. The payment in pennies was very disruptive to Cooperative staff and the length of time needed to count and receipt the payment in. Jordan Stewart made a motion

² 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.

³ The Finance Committee is comprised of Bill Stricklend—Chairman, Dianne Prestridge, Nathan Clark, and the General Manager—*Ex Officio*.

⁴ 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 the adopting of the policy an action item, seconded by Dianne Prestridge. The motion passed with 7 ayes and 0 nays. With the rules suspended, Dianne Prestridge made a motion to adopt the proposed policy, which would limit the payments accepted in change to five dollars. The motion was accepted by Bill Stricklend. The motion passed with 7 ayes and 0 nays.

14. Declaration of Surplus Items: (Agenda Item # 14)—There were no items to be declared surplus.

15. Member comments (Agenda Item #18)—There was an opportunity given for member comments and none were received.

16. There was an announcement made that the September meeting of the Board of Trustees would be held on September 26, 2022, at 6:00 pm at the Cooperative Headquarters Auditorium. Additionally, there will be a required meeting of the Trustees following the annual meeting of the membership to be held on August 27, 2022.

17. Adjourn—There was a motion by Bill Stricklend, seconded by Ty Smith, to adjourn. Motion passed with 7 ayes and 0 nays.