

Minutes  
Meeting of Trustees of the Arab Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Monday, November 22, 2021 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<sup>1</sup>-District 7, and Charles W Whisenant-District 8. Trustee Ty Smith<sup>2</sup>-District 9 was absent. Also present were Stacey White-General Manager; Clint Maze-Board Attorney, Cooperative Employees, and other members of the public.
2. Invocation (Agenda Item #2)—Clint Maze
3. Pledge of Allegiance (Agenda Item #3)—Bill Stricklend
4. Approval of the Amended Agenda (Agenda Item #4)—There was a request for Executive Session, which is to be added to the agenda as the new item # 17. Tyler Barnes made a motion to amend the agenda by adding the executive session, seconded by Chris Hemphill. Motion passed with 7 yeas and 0 nays. Thereafter, Bill Stricklend made a motion approve the agenda, seconded by Janet Bright. Motion passed with 7 yeas and 0 nays.
5. Approval of the Minutes (Agenda Item #5)—There was a motion to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Trustees made by Dianne Prestridge, seconded by Chris Hemphill. Motion passed with 8 yeas and 0 nays.
6. Management Update (Agenda Item #6)— The General Manager began her update by informing the Board that future Board packets would be emailed to the board in advance of the meeting, to allow more time for the Board Members to review the material. The General Manager continued her update by advising the Board that the Cooperative had paid its property ad valorem taxes. The TVA report now has a line item for the CFC debt on the Brashiers Chapel Substation of \$4.51 million. The General Manager presented the Board Monthly Collection and Meter Department Report, the Three-Month Cash/Investment Accounts Balances Report, the Monthly Report to TVA, and the Monthly Operational Budget Report. The reports are made a part of the minutes. In her report, the General Manager informed the Board that meter readers are still manually reading 611 meters, which are expected to be changed out in December.

The General Manager provided an update on the lights that have now been installed on the Guntersville causeway. The pole attachments of Farmers, Deltacom/Windstream. The old poles on both sides of the causeway should be removed within the next two months.

7. Personnel Committee<sup>3</sup> Update (Agenda Item #7)—The Personnel Committee Chairman presented revisions to the Residency Policy that resulted from the Board discussion in the October Board Meeting. After further discussion, the Board indicated a desire for the Personnel Committee to further revise the policy before the Board votes. The Chairman of the Personnel Committee

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<sup>1</sup> Trustee Nathan participated by telephone conference due to a malfunction of the Zoom link.

<sup>2</sup> Trustee Ty Smith attempted to participate via Zoom. However, due to the malfunction of the Zoom link, Trustee Smith was unable to attend.

<sup>3</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

reported that the Committee would be working on the policy language at the Personnel Committee meeting on December 20, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

8. Finance Committee<sup>4</sup> Update (Agenda Item #8)—The Finance Committee Chairman reported that there was no update.

9. Right of Way Committee<sup>5</sup> Update (Agenda Item #9)—The Right of Way Committee Chairman reported that the Right of Way Committee had met to discuss the needs of the Right of Way crew. The Right of Way Committee has identified a need for a brush truck and a Dingo. The committee has referred the possible purchase of the needed items to the Finance Committee to determine if funds are available for the purchase of the brush truck and Dingo, and if so, the timing and method of such purchase.

Also, the Right of Committee recommend that the Cooperative solicit bids from capable and responsible contractors for the hourly right of way clearing work that is currently being performed by Corbitt. Nathan Clark made the motion to solicit bids, which will be opened before the January 2022 meeting, seconded by Janet Bright. The motion passed with 7 yeas and 0 nays.

10. Old Business (Agenda Item #10)—Mrs. White advised that there was no update on the Sundown project. Update on Brashiers Chapel Substation is that the Substation was energized by TVA on November 4, 2021. The exit feeders from the Brashiers Chapel Substation are under construction.

11. Discussion Item: Community Care Fund (Agenda Item #11)—The General Manager informed the Board that TVA has once again made a matching grant for benevolent purposes. The Cooperative participated in this program in 2019 and 2020. The Cooperative accepted and matched the grants and donated the funds to the Arab Emergency Relief program for the purpose of paying electric bills for indigent members. The amount that TVA has made available for the Cooperative in 2021 is \$15,000. To accept this grant, the Cooperative would also have to contribute \$15,000. The Board discussed this matter and indicated a desire to participate. Bill Stricklend made a motion to suspend the rules and make this an action item, seconded by Dianne Prestridge. The motion passed with 7 yeas and 0 nays. With the rules suspended, Jeff Warren made a motion to accept the TVA grant in the amount of \$15,000 and to match the grant with \$15,000, and to contribute the funds to the Arab Emergency Relief fund for the purpose of payment of electric bills for indigent members. The motion was seconded by Tyler Barnes. The motion passed with 7 yeas and 0 nays.

12. Discussion Item: Employee Bonus (Agenda Item # 12)—The General Manager informed the Board of the bonus schedule used in 2020. After a brief discussion, Bill Stricklend made a motion to suspend the rules and make this an action item, seconded by Dianne Prestridge. The motion passed with 7 yeas and 0 nays. With the rules suspended, Jeff Warren made a motion to award Christmas bonus using the same schedule as used in 2020, seconded by Dianne Prestridge. The motion passed with 7 yeas and 0 nays.

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<sup>4</sup> The Finance Committee is comprised of Bill Stricklend—Chairman, Dianne Prestridge, Nathan Clark and the General Manager—*Ex Officio*.

<sup>5</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*.

13. Action Item: Policy on Promoting From Within (Agenda Item #13)—Jeff Warren indicated that he would like to delay action on this item until the policy could be further discussed by the Personnel Committee. No action was taken.
14. Declaration of Surplus Items: (Agenda Item # 14)—None.
15. Member comments (Agenda Item #15)—There was an opportunity given for member comments. None were received.
16. There was an announcement made that the December meeting of the Board of Trustees would be held on December 20, 2021 at 6:00 pm at the Cooperative Headquarters Auditorium.
17. Executive Session (Amended Agenda Item # 17)—There was an announcement that the Board would not take any action following the executive session. Thereafter Dianne Prestridge made a motion to go into executive session, seconded by Bill Stricklend. The motion carried with 7 yeas and 0 nays. After an executive session, Bill Stricklend made a motion to exit executive session, seconded by Jeff Warren. The motion passed with 7 yeas and 0 nays.
18. Adjourn—There was a motion by Bill Stricklend, seconded by Chris Hemphill, to adjourn. Motion passed with 7 yeas and 0 nays.