

Minutes
Meeting of Trustees of the Arab Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Monday, February 26, 2024, at 6:00 pm
Arab Electric Cooperative, Inc. Auditorium

1. Roll Call—Trustees Present: Janet Bright-District 1, Dewayne Shedd-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 Ty Smith-District 9. No Trustee 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 Agenda (Agenda Item #4)—Bill Stricklend made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Jeffrey Warren. Motion passed with 8 yeas and 0 nays.
5. Approval of the Minutes (Agenda Item #5 and 6)—The Board Attorney requested that the approval of the minutes be postponed to the March 2024 meeting.
6. Management Update (Agenda Item #7)— The General Manager began her update by presenting the monthly budget report, the Monthly Collection and Meter Department Report, the Three-Month Cash/Investment Accounts Balances Report, and the Monthly Report to TVA, all of which covered January 2024. The reports are made a part of the minutes. There were 153 disconnections for nonpayment, and 122 accounts paid and were reconnected. Further, the General Manager advised the Board that the net operating loss was the result of the payments for the business licenses, the partial payment for the Sundown site work and the payout for the pole change out contract. Further, the General Manager reported that Fisher Arnold would be at the Sundown Substation on March 4, 2024, to inspect the grading at the site. Finally, the General Manager reported that TVA had made a \$500 contribution to the Arab City Schools 4th Grade Robotics Team to compete in the World Competition being held in Texas.
7. Personnel Committee¹ Update (Agenda Item #7)—The Personnel Committee Chairman stated that there was no update.
8. Finance Committee² Update (Agenda Item #8)—The Finance Committee Chairman advised the Board that the Finance Committee was recommending that the Board match the TVA donation to Arab City Schools 4th Grade Robotics Team to compete in the World Competition being held in Texas. Bill Stricklend made a motion to accept the recommendation, seconded by Ty Smith. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 0 nays.

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.

³ 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 Chairman reported the bids were opened for the Right of Way Work for the Brindlee Mountain Substation. There were five bids returned, ranging from the highest of \$2,005,545.56, down to the lowest of \$1,012,565.00. The Brindlee Mountain Substation Right of Way is 206 miles of line, and the cost per mile is \$4,915.36, as compared to the 109 miles for Arab District Substation at \$6,000.17 per mile. Nathan Clark made a motion that the bid be awarded to the low bidder, Asplundh for \$1,012,565.00, seconded by Bill Stricklend. After a brief discussion, the motion passed with 8 yeas and 0 nays.

10. Old Business (Agenda Item #10)—The discussions with Alabama Fiber Network and Seven States have continued, but there is nothing to report to the Board beyond what was discussed at the February 2024 Special Meeting at this time.

11. Discussion Item: Cooperative Holidays (Agenda Item # 10)—The General Manager brought the Cooperative holiday Schedule before the Board. The General Manager presented the Cooperative’s holiday schedule as compared to the holiday schedule for banks. The General Manager requested that the Board consider adding one of the following :Martin Luther King holiday, President’s Day, or Juneteenth, all of which are holidays for TVA, to the Cooperative’s holiday schedule. This will be on the March Board of Trustees agenda as an action item.

12. Discussion Item: Painting Exterior of Cooperative Headquarters (Agenda Item # 11)—The General Manager presented two estimates to the Board for the painting of the exterior of the Cooperative Headquarters building. Alcalá’s Painting’s estimate was \$24,150.00 and Precision Painting, LLC’s estimate was \$48,874.00. There were questions regarding the type paint that was being used, and whether the companies were using comparable materials. The Board requested that Janet Bright and the General Manager review the bid specs and request clarification from the companies that provided estimates to make sure both estimates were equivalent. This will be on the March Board of Trustees agenda as an action item.

13. Discussion Item: TVA Economic Development Money (Agenda Item # 12)—The General Manager advised the Board that TVA is again offering Economic Development Funds available to the Cooperative, in the amount of \$14,921.00, that can be designated by the Cooperative to local economic development efforts, provided that the Cooperative match TVA’s contribution. The deadline to apply for these funds is August 15, 2024. The Board Attorney will explore the different projects that qualify for this grant. This will be on the March Board of Trustees agenda as an action item.

14. Action Item: The Electrical Cooperatives Political Action Committee (Agenda Item # 13)—The General Manager presented the Board with information pertaining to The Electric Cooperatives of Alabama Political Action Committee and introduced Sean Strickler, the Vice President of Public Affairs of AREA. Mr. Strickler presented on the purpose and benefits of participation in the PAC and provided information as to ways that individuals could contribute to the PAC. There was no action for the Board to take relative to this presentation.

15. Declaration of Surplus Items: (Agenda Item # 14)—None.

16. Member comments Mr. Larry Bodine addressed the Board.

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*.

17. There was an announcement that the next regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting is March 25, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the AEC Headquarters Auditorium.

18. Adjourn—There was a motion by Jeffrey Warren, seconded by Nathan Clark, to adjourn. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 0 nays.