

Minutes  
Special Called Meeting of Trustees of the Arab Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Tuesday, February 13, 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, and Ty Smith-District 9. Board President Charles W Whisenant-District 8 was absent, due to the passing of his grandmother. Board Vice President, Dianne Prestridge presided over the meeting. Also present were Stacey White-General Manager; Clint Maze-Board Attorney, Cooperative Employees, and other members of the public.
2. Approval of the Agenda (Agenda Item #2)—The Board Vice President requested that the agenda be approved as presented. Ty Smith made the motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Tyler Barnes. Motion passed with 8 yeas and 0 nays.<sup>1</sup>
3. Discussion Item: Winter Storm Relief (Agenda Item # 3)—Due to the extreme winter weather, there are many electric bills that are exceptionally high, which is resulting in a higher than normal number of calls to the Arab Emergency Relief Fund to access the Community Care Fund grant of \$20,000 which is designated to pay for indigent payment of electric bills. The policy regarding eligibility for those funds was discussed at length. After possible alterations to the current policy were reviewed, Bill Stricklend made a motion to suspend the rules and convert this to an action item, so that the policy could be amended, which was seconded by Dianne Prestridge. The motion to suspend the rules passed with 8 yeas and 0 nays. With the rules suspended, Nathan Clark made a motion to revise the policy to allow the Arab Emergency Relief Fund to provide an additional \$100 in assistance to any AEC member who has received prior assistance, but who have not received assistance within the prior twenty-four (24) months from Project Share, to be used for indigent payments for electric bills, seconded by Bill Stricklend. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 0 nays.
4. Action Item: Fiber to Substations (Agenda Item # 4)—The General Manager and Seth Selby presented to the Board an opportunity that may be available to partner with the Alabama Fiber Network and/or Seven States to bring middle mile fiber through the Cooperative District, and to also connect multiple of the substations to fiber, with the Cooperative receiving revenue from Alabama Fiber Network and/or Seven States to offset the cost of installing the fiber. This has been a long-range plan of the Cooperative, but with the possible opportunity to partner with AFN and/or Seven States, the General Manager wanted to hear from the Board whether this is something that Board wanted to explore. After considerable discussion, the Board wanted to explore this possibility. The General Manager and Seth Selby were tasked with gathering additional information and bringing it back to the Board for further consideration.
5. There was an announcement that the next regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting is February 26, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the AEC Headquarters Auditorium.
6. Adjourn—There was a motion by Jeffrey Warren, seconded by Ty Smith, to adjourn. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 0 nays.

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<sup>1</sup> Vice President Dianne Prestridge exercised her prerogative to preside over the meeting and to also cast votes on the issues presented. Therefore, there were 8 votes recorded on all issues before the Board.