

Minutes
Meeting of Trustees of the Arab Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Monday, March 25, 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)—Jeff Warren
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 Janet Bright. Motion passed with 8 yeas and 0 nays.
5. Approval of the Minutes (Agenda Item #5, 6, and 7)—The minutes from the January 22, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, the February 13, 2024 Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees, and the February 26, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees were Presented to the board for approval. The February 26, 2024 minutes were amended to reflect that there was a request for one additional holiday, rather than for three additional holidays. With the modification, Ty Smith made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Dewayne Shedd. The motion was approved with 8 yeas and 0 nays.
6. Management Update (Agenda Item #8)— 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 February 2024. The reports are made a part of the minutes. There were 129 disconnections for nonpayment, and 98 accounts paid and were reconnected. Further, the General Manager advised the Board that the TVA audit of Rates and Credit Checks was conducted for the first time since 2016 and the Cooperative received a perfect score. The Cooperative has learned that the Pole Attachment Agreements are supposed to be audited every 5 years, but there has not been an audit in 15 years. There are 5 companies with pole attachment agreement, namely: AT&T, Farmers, Go Net Speed, Spectrum (formerly Charter) and Uniti (formerly Windstream). The audit will result in \$100,000 in increased starting January 2025.

The dirt work at the Sundown Substation is complete and Fisher Arnold has requested that the pad be protected with minimum of 2” of gravel. The cost for 2” of gravel over the pad will cost \$27,500. Bill Stricklend made a motion to purchase the gravel, seconded by Nathan Clark. The motion was approved with 8 yeas and 0 nays.

7. Personnel Committee¹ Update (Agenda Item #9)—The Personnel Committee Chairman stated that there was no update.

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.

8. Finance Committee² Update (Agenda Item #9)—The Finance Committee Chairman stated that there was no update.
9. Right of Way Committee³ Update (Agenda Item #9)—The Right of Way Committee Chairman reported that the ROW work is progressing and is looking great.
10. Old Business (Agenda Item #10)—The General Manager advised the Board that there was a meeting with Mr. Culpepper and Mr. Stackhouse with the Alabama Fiber Network and that she was waiting to hear a response.
11. Discussion Item: (Agenda Item # 11)—Inadvertently left blank on the original agenda.
12. Action Item: Adding Presidents Day as paid holiday for employees (Agenda Item # 12)—Bill Stricklend made a motion to add Presidents day as a paid holiday, seconded by Dianne Prestridge. The motion was approved with 8 yeas and 0 nays.
13. Action Item: Painting Exterior of Cooperative Headquarters (Agenda Item # 13)—The General Manager and Mrs. Janet Bright met and discussed the painting bids with Alcalá's Painting and Precision Painting. Alcalá's bid was for \$31,500.00 and Precision Painting's bid was for \$47,421.58. After considerable discussion, Dianne Prestridge made a motion to award the bid to Precision Painting. The motion did not receive a second, and therefore failed.
14. Action Item: TVA Economic Development Money (Agenda Item # 14)—With the deadline to apply for these funds being August 15, 2024, the Board requested that the General Manager contact Marshall County Economic Development and the Arab Industrial Development Board to determine the scope of any projects for which the grant money would be used. This will be on the a future Board of Trustees agenda as an action item.
15. Action Item: (Agenda Item # 15)—Inadvertently left blank on the original agenda.
16. Declaration of Surplus Items: (Agenda Item # 16)—None.
17. Member comments: Mr. Colon Walls and Mr. Mark Walls addressed the Board.
18. There was an announcement that the next regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting is April 22, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the AEC Headquarters Auditorium.
19. Adjourn—There was a motion by Jeffrey Warren, seconded by Nathan Clark, to adjourn. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 0 nays.

² The Finance Committee is comprised of Bill Stricklend—Chairman, Dianne Prestridge, Nathan Clark, and the General Manager—*Ex Officio*.

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*.