

Minutes
Meeting of Trustees of the Arab Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Monday, April 22, 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; Jeff Warren-District 6; Nathan Clark-District 7, Charles W Whisenant-District 8; and Ty Smith-District 9. Tyler Barnes-District 5 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)—Jeff Warren made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Dewayne Shedd. Motion passed with 7 yeas and 0 nays.
5. Approval of the Minutes (Agenda Item #5)—The minutes from the March 25, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Item 18 of the minutes were amended to “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.” With the modification, Dianne Prestridge made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Dewayne Shedd. The motion was approved with 7 yeas and 0 nays.
6. Management Update (Agenda Item #6)— The General Manager updated the Board by presenting the Cooperative monthly budget report, the Monthly Collection and Meter Department Report, the Three-Month Cash/Investment Balances Report, and the Monthly Report to TVA, all of which covered March 2024. The reports are made a part of the minutes. There were 101 disconnections for nonpayment, and 86 accounts paid and were reconnected. Further, the General Manager advised the Board that the TVA will be performing maintenance on May 5, 2024, which will affect power for members. The Cooperative will work to back feed from other substations, to limit disruptions to the membership. Further, the gravel over the Sundown pad will be finished by the end of the month, that indications from TVA have pointed towards a rate increase in the near future and might be as high as 5.25%.
7. Personnel Committee¹ Update (Agenda Item #7)—There was no Personnel Committee update.

Finance Committee² Update (Agenda Item #7)—The Finance Committee Chair stated that there is a budget meeting on May 2, 2024, from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm.

¹ The Personnel Committee is comprised of Tyler Barnes—Chair, 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—Chair, Dianne Prestridge, Nathan Clark, and the General Manager—*Ex Officio*.

Right of Way Committee³ Update (Agenda Item #7)—The Right of Way Committee Chair reported that Asplundh will begin working on the right of way starting April 29, 2024.

8. Old Business (Agenda Item #8)—The General Manager advised the Board that discussions with Alabama Fiber Network did not result in agreement.

9. Discussion Item: (Agenda Item # 9)—Board Member Attendance Policy—The Board discussed the Attendance at Board Meeting by Board Members standard operating procedure policy which had been previously distributed to the Board. After discussion, Bill Stricklend made a motion to suspend the rules and make this an action item, seconded by Nathan Clark. The motion passed with 7 yeas and 0 nays. With the rules suspended, Bill Stricklend made a motion was approved the policy as proposed, seconded by Dianne Prestridge. The motion was approved with 7 yeas and 0 nays.

10. Action Item: Painting Exterior of Cooperative Headquarters (Agenda Item # 10)—The General Manager advised that she is still waiting to hear back from McKee and Associates and requested that this matter be taken up at a later time.

11. Action Item: TVA Economic Development Money (Agenda Item # 11)— After emails were sent to Arab IDB and MCEDC without receiving a response from MCEDC, Bill Stricklend made a motion to award the Economic Development Money, with the TVA match (\$30,000) be awarded to the Arab Industrial Development Board, seconded by Jeff Warren. The motion was approved with 7 yeas and 0 nays.

12. Declaration of Surplus Items: (Agenda Item # 12)—None.

13. Member comments: An opportunity for member comments was given and none were received.

14. There was an announcement that the next regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting is May 20, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the AEC Headquarters Auditorium, due to the Memorial Day Holiday.

15. Adjourn—There was a motion by Jeffrey Warren, seconded by Dewayne Shedd, to adjourn. The motion passed with 7 yeas and 0 nays.

³ The Right of Way Committee is comprised of Nathan Clark—Chair, Janet Bright, Tyler Barnes, Ty Smith, the General Manager—*Ex Officio*, and the Right of Way Supervisor, Brett Barnard—*Ex Officio*.