

Magdalena approves SEC franchise agreement

By John Larson, El Defensor Chieftain Staff Writer Dec 3, 2020

The Magdalena Village Board of Trustees at its Nov. 23 meeting voted to renew its franchise agreement with Socorro Electric Cooperative.

In approving Ordinance No. 2020-03 the village gives the co-op the right “to construct, maintain, and operate in the present and future roads, streets, alleys and public areas of the Village of Magdalena ... an electric distribution system consisting of poles and lines, with all necessary and desirable appurtenances, including underground conduits, for the purpose of supplying electrical current or internet service within and in the vicinity of the Village.”

In return, SEC would pay the village three percent of the gross receipts coming from customers of the co-op. Franchise.

The franchise agreement also includes a codicil that would allow the village to install fiber optic or internet cables on the cooperative's power poles within the village limits.

"In further consideration of the grant made herein," the agreement states. "The Village may install or contract for the installation of fiber optic or internet cables, and other necessary equipment to the poles belonging to the Grantee which are located within the Village limits. Furthermore, the Village shall assume responsibility for its own attachments and additions ... and the Village will be responsible for maintaining such attachments ... "

The franchise agreement is in effect for 10 years.

In his bi-monthly report, Mayor Richard Rumpf reminded the public that Village Hall is currently closed to walk-in traffic. He asked that residents call for an appointment at 575-854-2261. Hours remain the same, Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed for lunch from noon to 1 p.m. Masks must be worn at all times. Bathrooms and other facilities will also be closed to the public.

In other business:

- The board voted to advertise for a deputy marshal position.
- The board approved an emergency COVID policy for employee leave in compliance with state guidelines.