

051914-Soc city meeting

During the Monday night Socorro City Council meeting we heard public comments exposing the compensation to the co-op general manager and other issues. His base salary is \$180,000 plus \$15,000 expenses for driving home in Los Lunas, plus \$20,000 as a rep to agencies that the co-op is a member. Policy states the manger should live in the area served, but records show the co-op lawyer said he could live where he wants. Also violations of the Inspection of Public Records act were pointed out. Socorro City has requested documents from the co-op under IPRA, and lets see what the co-op will charge per page. For the Informed Cynic, it was \$1/per page.

A larger issue was a report by Nann Winter, (<http://stelznerlaw.com/>) a specialist advising local governments on issues such as, in this case, the city purchasing relevant parts of the SEC. Simply put, this is a relatively easy thing to do and not uncommon. Socorro can acquire their share of the co-op territory by purchase, emanate domain, or outright charging the co-op with trespass. They can purchase parts of the operation up to 5 miles outside city limits and even outside that area, purchase the SEC service to government facilities, such as the VLA and White Sands.

From past history, co-op owners can assume the SEC board, with their 1 vote majority and management attitude, to only dig in and continue the status quo in an attempt to prevent the buy-out. No matter which way this issue is resolved, the lawyers will still hold the keys to the treasury and run the company. One would think that the management and even the board would realize their reputation at the co-op will precede them in their next job and that perhaps their best option now would be to resign before they further embarrass themselves.

Socorro City Council has live broadcast of their meetings, which, compared to SEC meetings, is a joy to behold and attend. The videos are on their website, and also on YouTube. Below are links to the videos, and links to NORA electric cooperative and Jicarilla Nation talked about in Ms Winters presentation. You will see parallels in the way NORA does business and the SEC. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QsjEqjSLiHE#t=13>

<http://www.socorronm.gov/city-council-meeting-webcasts-and-minutes/>

NORA (Northern Rio Arriba) website <http://www.noraelectric.org/>

Jacarilla Nation website <http://www.jicarillaonline.com/>

Nann Winter law firm website <http://stelznerlaw.com/>