

This commentary refers to the regular January meeting of the SEC Board of Trustees that was held at the irregular hour of 1 p.m. on Jan. 29, 2014. Check it and the video out quickly as there is another meeting (special) scheduled for this coming Wednesday, February 5th also at the hour of 1 p.m. More on the time of the meetings and the purpose of the upcoming one later.

Colette Foard, owner of the now closed Trail's End Market, addressed the board in an effort to recover her capital credits in the amount of about \$26,000 which is being denied her by the SEC manager and lawyers. There is a video of Colette's statement (see below) which was rudely interrupted by Chair Anne Dorough invoking the two minute limit although in the past that limit was ignored for some people. Another member in the audience adroitly finished the last two sentences of the address. There is a downloadable copy of this statement which contains a ruling from the Attorney General's office backing Colette's claim. The board will rule on this matter at the regular Feb. meeting.

Other highlights include the election of Mgr. Herrera as representative to Tri-State (the SEC power generating entity) by a 2 to 2 vote broken by Chair Dorough in favor of the manager. Charlie Wagner was also nominated for the position which has always been held by a trustee elected by the members. Mr. Herrera as manager would not seem to be a proper representative of the members' interest. A policy allowing the appointment was voted upon and passed at the Dec. meeting of the previous board. Video below along with reprint of an article in the ABQ Journal concerning Tri-State's request for a rate increase.

While on the subject of actions during the Dec. meeting, Trustee Wagner again raised the matter of the request by the Alamo Res. for a satellite office on the reservation for payment of bills and information. Ms. Dorough refused to allow discussion on the matter stating that the issue was settled at that Dec. meeting. Video of both Dec. and Jan. discussions posted.

Now come the three hottest issues: 1. The approval of the Open Meeting Act (must be done annually) segued into discussion of the new meeting time for board get-togethers. Some of the trustees do not want to drive home after dark so they moved the time to 1 p.m. That is a real problem for members who work for a living and seems to make a mockery of the OMA. It also presents a problem for the only actively non-self employed member of the board, District III's Melissa Amaro who must take time off from her job to attend. She would have had no problem with the usual time of 5:30 p.m. Wagner suggested the moving of the board meetings to a Saturday (the usual meeting day for boards nationwide) would solve the problem. Melissa offered several compromise solutions. The vote was 2 to 2 with Dorough throwing the vote to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays. The word on the street and Socorro's streets are very wordy is that the manager does not want to drive from his home in Los Lunas to Socorro once a month on a Saturday. The same aversion is rumored of the ABQ lawyers. In any case, what those two highly paid individuals want trump the members and 2 trustees. Again see the Open Meetings... video below.

2. That Feb. 5th meeting is a meeting of a By-Law Committee. This will be a committee of the whole with all trustees in attendance at 1 p.m; OMA requires that this be an open meeting. Trustees unable to attend can appoint a member from their district. This would be fine except for the prohibitive time and the fact that the board, management and lawyers are still refusing to acknowledge the District V amendments that they did not put on the ballot in 2013 (substituting trustee recommendations) and ignoring the vote of the members at the second part of the 2013 Annual Meeting. Which leads directly into-----

3. The setting of date and time of the 2014 Annual Meeting which pitched the meeting into a uproar when Ms. Dorough announced that District V amendments were a dead issue and nothing done at either of the two 2013 Annual Meeting was valid because of lack of quorum. Never mind that video from both parts show a quorum being announced, the Dist. V amendments being voted on and passed, other motions from the floor, etc. Members of the coop in the audience broke in at this point to dispute the chairperson's comments and views and the meeting was hastily adjourned. Watch the video entitled "Annual Meeting Time and District 5 proposals" which features some very vulgar statements from one trustee.