

Co-op should meet with mayor

Anne L. Dorough, Socorro Electric Cooperative president and District 5 trustee, in her July 17 letter to the editor in the Chieftain seems to be quite concerned over the co-op (and thus the members) having to pay "vast sums of money ... by heading down an expensive and distracting path ... can expect years of legal wrangling ... get ready to pay more legal fees ... a lose-lose deal for everyone except the lawyers."

I am baffled by this sudden, new concern regarding a cost to members, who have been on an expensive and distracting path for some time since the board decided to sue members. We members have incurred years of expensive wrangling as well as extravagant legal fees.

The extravagant fees continue for members as the board has added another lawyer to the Wiggins law group by hiring Cordova Public Relations (\$2,889) "to assess the current situation."

Mayor Ravi Bhasker is agreeable to meet to address the expired franchise agreement. The

SEC board balks at this meeting being an open forum? Why? The co-op board is very fond of executive meetings which exclude the public. But this franchise is in the public's best interest.

The Open Meetings Act had to be forced on the board for their regular meetings.

Dorough says "we encourage co-op members to bring their questions to the board." She obviously does not mean to a board meeting where the public is limited to two minutes to speak, and there is no acknowledgment by the board regarding what is said.

Are our electric rates, as claimed, on par with other rural cooperatives in the state?

Dorough should produce figures to verify this claim.

My suggestion: the city should not stop feasibility studies. The SEC board should meet with the mayor to negotiate a franchise agreement.

Ruth White

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