

## **Elko Television District**

Board Meeting Minutes, February 6th, 2025  
6:00 p.m. at the Elko County Court House

### **Board Members:**

Present: Dale Lotspeich, Kent LeBarts, Rick Jimenez, and Brian Riley

Absent:

**Others Present:** Cenni Jimenez representing Premier Wireless, Misty Atkins representing herself, Paden Hilyard representing Eagle Communications, Raymond Mowrey representing himself, and Marisa Reeves representing McMullen, McPhee & Co., LLC

### **Proceedings**

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Dale Lotspeich.

**Public Comment:** None

### **Approval of the Minutes January 9th, 2025 Meeting**

Kent LeBarts moved to accept the minutes from the January 9th, 2025 meeting. Rick Jimenez seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

### **Approval of the Treasurer's Report**

Marisa presented the report, along with noting that Albino Ortega would like to address the board at the next meeting regarding his payment plan. Kent stated that at Raymond James there are 4 CDs valued at \$100,000 each. One just matured in January and was reinvested. Two more will mature on May 13<sup>th</sup> and June 3<sup>rd</sup>. There is currently \$94,000 in cash at Raymond James. Kent LeBarts moved to accept the Treasurer's report as written. Brian Riley seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

### **Approval & Ratification of Outstanding Bills for payment**

Kent LeBarts read aloud the outstanding and ratified bills. Kent LeBarts moved to accept the outstanding and ratified bills as read. Brian Riley seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

### **Discussion and Approval of 2025-2026 Property Tax Rate**

Marisa noted the current property tax rate is 6.45%. Dale was contacted by Matt from the School District and Jon Karr from Elko County. They requested the TV District work cooperatively with them and lower the rate. Brian feels it should stay where it is, especially since it cost \$900,000 for the new tower at Grindstone. Rick stated there are a lot of projects, so the rate is where it needs to be. Kent mentioned the TV District will be taking on a lot more public service clients, and with the TV District being responsible for the site and towers, we need the money to maintain them. Kent personally received an additional property tax bill and saw the additional tax money go to the school districts as ordered by the Governor. Dale related in 2014 the board lowered the tax rate thinking it would save taxpayer dollars, not realizing that money just went to other cities or the county, so the taxpayers never saw a reduction. In 2022 it was unanimous to increase the rate due to the large capital budget. Dale personally feels the board should keep the same rate because of previous commitments.

Kent LeBarts moved to keep the current property tax rate. Brian Riley seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

**Discussion and Possible Approval of Rise Broadband Contract Amendment**

Marisa noted the few changes Rise Broadband wanted to make. Rick Jimenez moved to approve the Rise Broadband contract amendment. Kent LeBarts seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

**Discussion and Possible Approval of Hiring Mike Murphy of DCS, a Nevada Engineering and Project Management Firm, to Consult Regarding Road Repairs on Grindstone and Lamoille Access Roads**

More work is needed on the Maggie Creek access road and on Lamoille. Mike provided his rates. He would ask for payment of his time and materials to scope out the road and make recommendations on what areas to focus on and prioritize. Kent recused himself. Mike was his boss and DCS and another prior employer. Brian Riley moved to hire Mike Murphy of DCS. Rick Jimenez seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

**Discussion and Possible Approval of NDOT Adding a Microwave at Peavey**

NDOT wants to add a three-foot dish on Peavey at about 50 feet. Paden advised them to also install an ice shield. Marisa noted that their contract is expired. Cenni said the additional dish would not overload the tower, but it would be good to do a structural analysis again after the installation. Paden will let NDOT know they will need to provide the structural analysis. Brian Riley moved to allow NDOT to install a three-foot dish and related accessories on Peavey. Rick Jimenez seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

**Discussion and Possible Approval of Purchasing a Power Usage Monitor at Several Sites**

Paden noted there was already Power Monitoring at Grindstone. Marisa stated that she never got access, so Paden will check on that. The subscription is due for renewal this summer. Dale asked Paden to update the board with the capacities and cost for the one at Grindstone. What Cenni is proposing the board could deploy across all sites. The equipment is only \$255 for each site. It is both wired and wireless. Tabled for the next meeting.

**Discussion and Possible Action Regarding AT&T Grindstone Lease Modification**

Cenni proposed to AT&T \$2,600 a month with a 10% increase every 5 years. AT&T countered with \$2,300 a month. Grindstone is a major microwave hub for them. Paden stated AT&T has updated twice in the last decade, so they would need to remove allot of equipment in order to upgrade. Kent LeBarts moved to counter AT&T's proposal by staying at the current monthly rate, a 10% increase every 5 years, a 25-year term, and all other language in the current contract to remain the same. Rick Jimenez seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

**Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Verizon Grindstone Lease Modification**

Cenni reminded the board they refused the initial offer and proposed \$1,800 a month with a 10% increase every 5 years for a 30-year term along with requiring them to relocate to the new tower within 5 years. Verizon countered with \$1,300 a month. They were approved to add another microwave, but it's Verizon's rad center that is making the tower overloaded. Kent LeBarts moved to counter Verizon's proposal by staying at the current monthly rate, a 10% increase every 5 years, a 30-year term, moving to the new tower within 5 years, and all other language in the current contract to remain the same. No second, Cenni will get with Verizon regarding the counter.

### **Repair Service Report and Site Updates**

Paden said most sites are doing great. There were a few fiber issues in Reno. Humboldt County reached out and got it fixed. A new UPS is on order. He repaired a transmitter on Lamoille and it's back in service. Grindstone has been good. There was a possible power surge or lightning. NDOT lost Radio and T-Mobile lost the whole site, but everything is back to working. The only major concern is reordering replacement parts for a few more transmitters that need to be repaired. The main door lock on Peavey quit working, so a replacement will be ordered. The compressor on Lamoille has a slight leak. A replacement is about \$2,300.

Dale asked if, in theory, a Technalogix transmitter can take 12 inputs and rebroadcast them on one frequency. Paden replied yes and no. They are capable of ATS 1.0 and ATS 3.0. It must be done before being served to the transmitter. Technalogix is a simple license file, whereas Anywave we would have to send the equipment back to swap out components. So basically, we could send every channel we have from Reno and Salt Lake and broadcast all 50 channels from one location. In the future, we could bring in every over-the-air channel from Reno & Salt Lake, but they would be in HD. All TV channels are MPEG2. It was designed like a DVD, there's a lot of space, but it takes a lot of bandwidth. Technology has evolved and you can get it now with the same amount of pixels but take ¼ or 1/8 of the bandwidth. We have to broadcast each major station's (PBS, Fox, ABC) primary channel in MPEG, but the rest can be different.

Dale proposed to the board about meeting with a Technalogix representative every 3 to 6 months to learn more of the ins and outs of this technology.

**Old Business:** Rick Jimenez had a few questions regarding the Public Access Channel. Dale recommended making an appointment with Shelly at Pershing County School District. They have a low power TV station for their school. He can also reach out to Reno PBS. The channel does not have to be run all day, there can be a message on the screen when no programs are being broadcast.

Rick also mentioned that from what he saw on Titan TV there is only one lineup. Paden mentioned that it includes everything the TV District broadcasts and it's not location-based. Rick suggested talking with Titan TV about adjusting the time difference due to Salt Lake time change.

**New Business:** None

**Public Comment:** None

**Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.**

**The next regular meeting will be held on March 13th, 2025.**