

**Elko Television District**  
Board Meeting Minutes, April 9th, 2024  
6:00 p.m. at the Elko County Court House

**Board Members:**

Present: Steve Guitar, Kent LeBarts, Rick Jimenez, Dale Lotspeich, and Charles Schaer

Absent:

**Others Present:** Paden Hilyard representing Eagle Communications, Brian Riley representing himself, and Marisa Reeves representing McMullen, McPhee & Co., LLC

**Proceedings**

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Steve Guitar

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of the Minutes March 12th and March 28th, 2024 Meetings**

Kent LeBarts moved to accept the minutes from the March 12th and March 28th, 2024 meetings. Rick Jimenez seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

**Approval of the Treasurer's Report**

Dale Lotspeich moved to accept the Treasurer's report as written. Charles Schaer seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

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

Kent LeBarts read aloud the outstanding and ratified bills. Charles Schaer moved to accept the outstanding and ratified bills as read. Dale Lotspeich seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

**Review and Approval of Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2025**

Steve mentioned that just because the TV District has the money to budget for \$1 million for capital improvements doesn't mean that is what must be budgeted. Dale thinks since going over budget can be very difficult to adjust, if the TV District has the means to put in a bigger budget we should go ahead with it. Dale would like to add \$50,000 to \$75,000 towards public television. Dale moved to approve the tentative budget with a \$1 million Capital Budget and \$75,000 for public broadcasting. Rick Jimenez seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

**Approval of Fiscal Year 2024 Audit Engagement Letter**

Tabled until next meeting.

**Discussion Regarding Property Tax Rate**

Dale feels the process TV District went through was legitimate. Maybe down the road the board could plan to attend some other meetings to help with goodwill. The school district did not do a good job notifying the public of why they need money, nor did they provide a spending plan.

## **Discussion, Updates, Possible Approval and Creating a Priority List of Current and Future Capital Projects as Follows but Not Limited To:**

***Grindstone Grounding Issues, New Site on Top of Elko Snowbowl, Building a New Tower on Grindstone, Creating a Power Policy, Link from Lamoille to Peavey for TV Channel or Security Use, Updates on IP Stream Device to Connect to Fiber, Updates on Replacing Fence at Peavey and Updates on Purchasing Sitemaster, and Possible Capital Projects: Fix Lighting at Pequops, Pour concrete at Paradise Dr to Control Weeds, Updating TV District Equipment on Various Sites***

Grindstone should be focused on first, especially the grounding. Paden needs to make repairs on Peavey and Grindstone. He needs to replace two transmitters on Grindstone and a battery back-up on Peavey. He might fly from Wells. A local helicopter out of Elko is \$1,850 an hour with a 3 hour minimum.

Paden would also like to get the old Larkans replaced and possibly start upgrading the equipment on Lamoille and Grindstone for ATSC 3.0. He hasn't gotten a response about back-up amplifiers yet. Dale thinks the TV District should have 2 or 3 of common items on the shelf for repairs.

## **Discussion and Updates of Lumen Fiber Connection for Salt Lake**

Paden said Lumen for Salt Lake just got activated today. The final testing will be later this week or next week.

## **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Changing the DMA (Designated Marketing Area) for Elko County from Salt Lake to Reno**

The County is taking the lead on this. For the TV District to be a translator district, there is no marketing information or station logs, but with due diligence Paden has forwarded that to the Reno stations because they are the ones that would benefit. Steve said he wouldn't mind if Elko was in a dual DMA. Paden mentioned we are only 280 miles from Salt Lake instead of 300 miles from Reno.

## **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Public Safety and Communication on TV District Sites**

The Fire district will be going up on some of our sites, they just need to get some stuff done before they can move forward. Dale would like the TV District to come up with a policy that if any of the fire, 911 dispatch, ambulance, sheriff, etc. needs access to our sites we enter into an inter-local contract. This would only be for Elko County public safety, not the city or state.

## **Review and Possible Approval of Updates to Contracts**

***Eureka County TV District MOU, CC Communications Leasing Space at Fiber Hut, Skyfiber Locating to Grindstone, EIP New Contract, NDOT Leasing Space in Peavey Building #2, and Elko Fire District Possibly Leasing Space on TV District Sites***

Tabled until next meeting.

***Rise Broadband Adding 2 Dishes and Contract Renewals for the Following: Coach USA, Elko Broadcasting Company, Nevada Department of Information Technology, Nevada Department of Transportation, and Premier Wireless Services***

Dale moved to approve the contract addendums for Rise Broadband, Coach USA, Elko Broadcasting, Nevada Department of Information Technology and Premier Wireless Services. Kent LeBarts seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

**Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Removing Temporary Pole at Elko Airport Fiber Hut**

The pole is Paden's. He will need to get White Cloud re-located. They were only supposed to be on the pole temporarily.

**Updates and Possible Action Regarding Verizon Wireless Modifications on Lamoille & Grindstone, Lease Contract Changes and All Matters Related Thereto and Updates and Possible Action Regarding AT&T Installing a Generator at Grindstone and All Matters Related Thereto**

Verizon and AT&T are ready to go with their projects on Grindstone. AT&T needs to make an antenna change for the 5G upgrades. Steve said that is fine with the proviso that Verizon and AT&T move to the new tower once it's built. AT&T is getting ready to put in their generator. It will be in front of the TV District generator. Paden said to stress to AT&T that they need to put in a ground ring around the generator building.

**Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Creation of a Local Public Access Channel for Elko County**

Steve asked Paden to find out more from his FCC contact on what we need to do. Dale talked about getting Lori Gilbert to see if she would be interested in doing a news broadcast. The board could approach someone like Tyler Gunter to see if he would be interested in a private partnership.

Paden went to Lovelock to work with Pershing County School years ago. That station is ramping up and just installed some more equipment. They want to have the ability to have High Schools around the state do their own studio. Paden thinks the TV District could partner with them for some content and possibly encourage Elko or Spring Creek High School to have their own studio. The TV District may be able to give some funding for equipment for the schools.

**Repair Service Report and Site Updates**

There are 4 or 5 channels out right now. He needs a helicopter to get to them. Paden would like to see a good-size culvert installed where the creek crosses on Peavey. This month he is going to put a bunch of weed killer on the sites.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Kent & Steve have been approached about the old container at Ryndon by the Spring Creek Middle School Ham Club who would like to have it for a small club house. Dale said Steve can work out the logistics and we can vote on it next month. A government entity donating to a 501-3c just needs a vote of the board.

**Public Comment:** None

**Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.**

**The next regular meeting will be held on May 7th, 2024.**