

**Elko Television District**  
Board Meeting Minutes, April 10, 2025  
6:00 p.m. at the Elko County Court House

**Board Members:**

Present: Dale Lotspeich, Kent LeBarts, Brian Riley and Raymond Mowrey

Absent: Rick Jimenez

**Others Present:** Misty Atkins representing herself, Paden Hilyard representing Eagle Communications, Crystal Koppe representing Koppe Co., and Marisa Reeves representing McMullen, McPhee & Co., LLC

**Proceedings**

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

**Public Comment:** None

**Comments From the Chairman**

Dale said Cenni will have difficulty calling in. In a prior conversation he state that they will be starting back on Grindstone in two weeks. Brian & Dale have registered to go to the NTA Conference.

**Approval of the Minutes March 13th, 2025 Meeting**

Kent LeBarts moved to accept the minutes from the March 13th, 2025 meeting. Brian Riley seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

**Approval of the Treasurer's Report**

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. Brian Riley moved to accept the outstanding and ratified bills as read. Raymond Mowrey seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

**Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Resignation of Rick Jimenez**

Rick sent in his notice of resignation two weeks ago. He is moving to Idaho. Kent stated the board has appreciated his long service. Dale stated that the board can decide to appoint Misty Atkins or put out another ad for the vacancy. Kent LeBarts moved to accept Rick Jimenez's resignation effective immediately. Brian Riley seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous. Brian Riley moved to approve Misty Atkins to fill the vacant seat. Kent LeBarts seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

**Discussion and Possible Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

Raymond Mowrey moved to appoint Brian Riley as Vice-Chairman. Kent LeBarts seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

**Committee Reports**

*Infrastructure Committee* – They will be meeting next Wednesday.

*Translator/Programming Committee* – Brian Riley will be taking over as lead on the Translator Committee. Ray would love to join the committee. Dale recommended they visit with Shelly, who runs the TV for the school in Lovelock. She will probably be retiring next year.

*Budget Committee* – Nothing new to report.

**Discussion and Possible Approval of NDOT Amendment**

Tabled until the next meeting.

**Discussion and Possible Approval of McMullen McPhee Engagement Letter**

Tabled until the next meeting.

**Discussion and Possible Approval of Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget**

Marisa read over the Budget report. Kent LeBarts moved to accept the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget report as prepared. Raymond Mowrey seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

**Discussion and Possible Approval of 5-Year Capital Project Plan**

Brian Riley moved to approve the 5-Year Capital Project Plan as prepared. Kent LeBarts seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

**Discussion and Possible Approval of Final Offer to AT&T for Lease on Grindstone**

Tabled until the next meeting.

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

Tabled until the next meeting.

**Discussion and Possible Approval of Elko Amateur Radio Club (Ham Radio Club) Contract Renewal**

Tabled until the next meeting.

**Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Maggie Creek Road Repair**

Dale mentioned that once the road is dried out, he will make a date with the engineer to look at the road. Tabled until the next meeting.

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

The board asked if we should purchase the power usage monitoring for multiple sites. Paden said to wait until we do the test at Ryndon.

**Discussion and Possible Approval of Purchasing Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) and Battery Backups for Various Sites**

Paden has spent most this week testing battery backups. The UPSs on Pequop and Grindstone are older. Most UPS could use new batteries. The Lamoille UPS will need to be replaced. Paden is looking at new Lithium batteries. It would be about \$3,000 for the UPS, but with battery extensions, about \$6,000. The equipment installed for NDOT is a stack of batteries and invertcells. It is almost the same as a UPS, but it is always adjusting the power instead of only turning on when the power is out. Those cost approximately \$70,000. But they would be enough to keep all the transmitters and equipment for the TV District running on the site for approximately 12 hours. The lithium-ion batteries are rated for about 10 to 15 years. Paden will have a formal proposal for the board at the next meeting.

### **Discussion and Possible Approval of New Fiber Routes**

Paden spoke to ABC studio in Reno. They can get at least two connections, but he is not sure who they are, possibly AT&T and Spectrum. Communication with ABC is very slow, so there is no significant information change. We still need to use the switch data center even though we have CC Communications. PBS only has one connection out, AT&T. The board asked if they could setup a dual redundancy over the air feed through two separate tracks that would give two routes in and out of Reno and still do it cost-effectively? Paden thinks he has a receiver that could receive another. It would just be the receiver and antenna at the second location. Nimbra & licenses would be required on both ends. It would be a one-time cost of \$12,000 for licenses. The total cost would be about \$20,000 for the "Nimbra" and \$25,000 for equipment. Eureka may be interested in sharing some of the cost. If the TV District went with dual carriers with both PBS and Fox, there would have to be a huge catastrophe to knock out the signal. The Nimbras can do a failover internally, so if there are two feeds on the one device, it could switch them. Paden is in the process of getting with NSHE for the TV District to be considered part of the County and use their connections.

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

The snow at Grindstone is melting quickly, but Paden still can't get there. Lamoille is doing good. Paden did some additional work at Ryndon. He is having a weird issue with the Technalogix equipment, he is calling them to get it fixed. The channels are looking good. Pequop is still snowed in. The snow at Peavey is melting fast. Peavey will need network upgrades to get ready for an IP conversion. He can probably get the dishes for about \$3,000. The transmitters at Ryndon are working wonderfully, apart from the bugs. He still has a grounding update to do on Ryndon that he will probably do in the spring. Ryndon & the Fiber Hut need some heavy-duty weed killer. Dale asked if we need to hire a pest control professional. It would be best to sterilize the ground. Dale asked Paden to get a couple of quotes to get rid of the weeds. Paden suggested considering replacing the lighting with LED lights at all the sites. He also would like to upgrade any timers with digital timers so the lights don't end up staying on all the time.

### **Updates Regarding a New Site and Getting Power at Snowbowl**

With a quote of \$300,000 for commercial power, Dale wonders if this is a good investment. It has been a goal, but the site doesn't have to be built. Dale would like to engineer the site for solar to compare the cost. The TV District has a building already. There is no need for a huge, robust tower. The Roam tower takes about 27 cubic feet of concrete and can be built up to 60 feet tall. They could handle three and four-foot microwave dishes. The only potential issue with power is that if the City is willing to be a partner and spend some money on the power for SnowBowl, then there would be the cost of getting a transformer. It would be more difficult to lease space if it was a solar site, but it could cover a dead spot for fire and ambulance. Paden said there shouldn't be competition with the towers on Twin Peaks. Dale asked Paden to do a propagation map, or draw a circle with Google Maps to show the potential coverage. A generator the would be needed. The Snowbowl site is not a huge ice generator, so a 10kw wind generator should work.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Dale would like the board to think of doing site visits in June and possibly reach out to a reporter to do an article about over-the-air TV. The tour could be agendized to invite public entities and

reports. If more than two board members attend, an Agenda will need to be posted stating no actual meeting is taking place.

Paden asked if the board would like new pamphlets with a QR code to distribute to the public. Marisa, Dale, and Crystal will get together a list of questions or update the pamphlets.

Dale asked Marisa to order shirts for Brian & Ray. Also the new board members will need to be added to the bank account.

**Public Comment:** None

**Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.**

**The next regular meeting will be held on May 8th, 2025.**