

Elko Television District
Board Meeting Minutes, May 8, 2025
6:00 p.m. at the Elko County Courthouse

Board Members:

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

Absent:

Others Present: Cenni Jimenez representing Premier Wireless Services, 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 welcomed Misty to the board. Dale and Brian just went to the NTA convention in Salt Lake City. Next year it will be in Reno.

Approval of the Minutes April 10th, 2025 Meeting

Kent LeBarts moved to accept the minutes from the April 10th, 2025 meeting. Brian Riley seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report

Brian Riley moved to accept the Treasurer's report as written. Kent LeBarts 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. Misty Atkins seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

Discussion and Possible Appointment of Vice-Chairman

This agenda item is removed.

Committee Reports

Infrastructure Committee – Kent and Dale met with the county and went over sites to see what their desires and needs are. The county will probably be doing some major build-outs for 2-way radio over the next few years and may be using all our sites. Elko Fire is in the same boat, but not the police department. With everyone wanting to communicate together, this will lessen the amount of equipment installed and space used. Kent said they didn't get to talk about getting everyone to chip in for the power for Snowbowl.

Cenni said a buried line is not possible since it goes across multiple easements. NV Energy would do all the leg work, as in all the permitting, the easements, dealing with the state, etc. They have to bore under the highway. Cenni doesn't know how to install the power line.

Dale met with Ken Wiley discussing potentially hiring a part-time person to coordinate departments, someone who works with the TV District directly to negotiate Requests for Proposals and such. The TV District is looking for someone part-time who has technical expertise and contacts.

Translator/Programming Committee – Nothing new to report.

Budget Committee – Dale recommends adding Misty to the Budget Committee.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Purchasing Laptops or Tablets for Board Members to Use For TV District Business and Meetings

Since personal phones can be searched if they have Elko County emails on them, it makes sense to look for a device that will be used strictly for TV District business. Also, the meeting packets can be on the laptops. Misty Atkins moved to approve purchasing laptops for TV District use only. Misty Atkins amended her motion from laptops to tablets. Brian Riley seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous. A usage policy will be adopted later.

Discussion and Possible Approval of NDOT Amendment

Tabled until the next meeting.

Discussion and Possible Approval of McMullen McPhee Engagement Letter

Misty Atkins moved to accept the McMullen McPhee engagement letter. Raymond Mowrey seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding AT&T Lease on Grindstone

AT&T declined the last offer, and Cenni hasn't heard anything after that. This item can be removed from the agenda.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Verizon Grindstone and Lamoille Lease Modification

Verizon is the same as AT&T. They didn't like the counteroffer offer and Cenni hasn't heard anything since. Verizon will be doing upgrades. Cenni is negotiating to get them off the old tower and onto the new one on Grindstone. They are currently running very old equipment. They will take away the old lines and use 4 hybrid lines to the tower. The new technology will bump up their service to 5-G. They are putting up a new site, potentially in South Fork. They will also be approaching the TV District with another dish to point towards Southfork. Cenni recommends looking at square footage by weight. Instead of coax, they will use fiber. Instead of an antenna that is 30 to 60 lbs, they are now updating antennas that are at 100+ pounds but are the same size. It's necessary to factor in the weight when charging for square footage and also consider ice loading poundage. They will need to get this upgrade done soon because they won't have access to the site after October 1st.

Cenni got the Sankosha up to Grindstone. He hopes to get the tower done by the end of May. It should be completed by the first or second week of June.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Maggie Creek Road Repair

Cenni stated that with the last rainstorm and snow melt at Grindstone, the valley was ripped apart at the canyon. They filled in a bunch of ruts to get the Sankosha up there. They have been taking a side by side up each day and leaving equipment at the site. He is hoping everything dries up. Maggie Creek is

more concerned about the road from the house. Cenni suggested it might be wise to include a clause in the lease for the Lessee to reimburse the TV District for damage to the roads to the sites.

Updates Regarding a New Site and Getting Power at Snowbowl

The TV district laid underground power to Grindstone. Dale thinks we should ask NV Energy if the TV District put in their own power, including getting the necessary easements, would they do the final hook-up. Cenni advised that the TV district would be responsible for anything that goes wrong. Cenni said NV Energy went overhead due to private properties, but the city is responsible for bike trails, and they didn't want it disturbed. \$321,000 is a verbal quote. The problem is that once the contract is signed, there are only 90 days to pay. The cost could be \$400,000. Dale asked, since this would be a filler site, is this the best use of taxpayer dollars? There would be about 22 poles. There is someone in Wells who can do poles. The city wanted to be a 30% to 50% participant. Cenni suggested having NV Energy take the responsibility to go under the highway, and then the TV District put up the rest. Kent advises pursuing the county and city to see if any of them need the tower. Brian mentioned this is another reason to hire an employee because they could do all this communication. They do still produce broadcasting equipment that you can rebroadcast on the same channel. With that kind of site, there wouldn't be a lot of power consumption.

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

Kent stated the 99-year lease amendment looks good, but he wants to take it to the Ham Radio Club to look over before signing. The Ham Radio Club will give a short presentation at the next meeting.

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

Tabled until the next meeting.

Discussion and Possible Approval of New Fiber Routes

Tabled until the next meeting.

Repair Service Report and Site Updates

Tabled until the next meeting.

Old Business: Cenni stated Verizon is also trying to do an upgrade at Lamoille summit. He received construction drawings from them. They are going to be doing 6 - 4" conduits underground from their building to the new tower foundation. He already has a rad center picked out for them. They are relocating all the microwaves. They will be upgrading the links down Lamoille Highway. There will be a microwave link at the Spring Creek High School, an updated microwave at Arctic Circle, and at the airport. They are focusing on relocating the equipment and upgrading antennas.

New Business: Dale said one of the things they talked about at the NTA is to have a list of all the board members' contact information on a page that was a permanent part of the agenda, along with your FCC licenses.

12 streams can be put on one channel with the new Technalogix equipment. Dale asked the translator committee what channels aren't being brought in that the public would like to have brought in, such as Me.TV getting dropped. When the station dropped GRIT, everyone got upset.

Add to the next agenda hiring an employee compared with paying vendors. Also, to review reducing the capital projects budget to \$800,000 and putting the additional \$200,000 in purchasing a CD and possibly putting money towards the snowbowl in the Raymond James investment account to make the money work for us while we figure things out.

Kent was talking with Ken Wiley about the TV District profile. People see the TV District and say "What is that?" They don't know what it provides. The TV District can look into changing the name to the Elko Communications District. Misty suggested the name to be Elko TV & Communications District. Brian thinks the TV District should also advertise at the home show and other events to help the public understand more about the TV District. Add to the next agenda a possible name change.

Public Comment: None

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held on June 12th, 2025.