

Elko Television District

Board Meeting Minutes, July 10th, 2025
6:00 p.m. at the Elko County Courthouse

Board Members:

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

Absent: Brian Riley

Others Present: Lori Gilbert representing Elko Broadcasting Company, Paden Hilyard representing Eagle Communications, Cenni Jimenez representing Premier Wireless Services, Ken Wiley as employee of Elko TV District, 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 Ken Wiley, the new employee. There was a tour of a few TV District sites. Lori Gilbert, along with Lydia Snow from the Elko Daily Free Press. An article was published, but a few figures were wrong.

Dale will be having knee surgery on September 11th; therefore, the September meeting will need to be moved to either Thursday, September 4th, or Tuesday, September 9th.

Approval of the Minutes June 12th, 2025 Meeting

Kent LeBarts moved to accept the minutes from the June 12th, 2025 meeting. Raymond Mowrey seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report

Marisa noted that there will be a transfer of \$300,000 into the Raymond James account. It will be converted to \$100,000 CD's. The CD's will mature every two months. Kent LeBarts moved to accept the Treasurer's report as written. Ray Mowrey seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

Approval & Ratification of Outstanding Bills for payment

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

Committee Reports

Infrastructure Committee – Dale interviewed Ken, who was the only person who sent in a resume. Dale had a conversation with Emergency Management and Fire dispatch. They are looking for some additional assistance. Dale authorized Ken to work on some solutions for them.

Translator/Programming Committee – Dale spoke with Shelly from the Lovelock School District. This will be her last year at the school; however, she was still willing to work with the Translator Committee.

Budget Committee – Nothing new to report.

Discussion and Possible Approval of 2026-2027 Koppe Contract

Misty Atkins moved to approve the two-year 2026-2027 Koppe Contract for Website and Social Media management

Discussion and Possible Approval of Elko Television District Name Change

This will require an ordinance change. Dale advised Jon Karr it would be best to work on the interlocal agreement first.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Verizon Grindstone and Lamoille Equipment Upgrades and Lease Modifications

Cenni told Verizon they would have to do their own structural analysis on Grindstone before they move to the new tower. They gave him new microwave designs that they want to put up. Cenni told Verizon they would have to do the 1A survey on their own. There are some new sites from Verizon in the Spring Creek area.

Kent took Misty to Lamoille Summit. Kent saw a lot of loose cables. There is only one fire extinguisher in the generator building; the other two buildings don't have one. Cenni said a lot of the loose cables are the School District's, but also some of White Cloud's. White Cloud is completely out of the airport and will be moving off of Lamoille by the end of the month.

Discussion and Possible Approval of NDOT Amendment

Paden said the amendment looks good. He did a survey on Peavey and has the numbers to figure out the lease amount; he just needs to get it down on paper. The new antennas are 20 feet.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Interlocal Agreement with Elko County Public Safety Services

Tabled until the next meeting.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Building a New Tower on Grindstone and Contractor Updates

Cenni reported that the tower is built and the ladders are up. He will pick up the tower all at once and set it down.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Maggie Creek Road Repair

Ken Wiley went over the request for proposal. It will be a 4 year contract with an Engineering Firm that will provide assistance with the Grindstone and Maggie Creek roads as well as land surveys. Raymond Mowrey moved to post the RFP. Kent LeBarts seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

Cenni recommended adding a clause to the lease contracts that if the road is destroyed, the lessee would have to pay to have it repaired. Dale asked Cenni and Ken to work together to come up with some standardized wording. Cenni also suggested posting signage that whoever destroys the roads has to repair them.

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

Paden stated that as of last week, they were assigned an new account manager for the Eureka data switch center. He laid into her about not responding to his requests, she promised to get him an answer. Ken and Paden are also looking into NSHE as a backup option. CC Communications I the most reliable, with the only one more reliable being NSHE. Starlink is also becoming more robust. Cenni said he just hooked up a few cell sites in the redwoods in California with Starlink, and it's doing great. Tabled until the next meeting.

Updates Regarding a New Site and Getting Power at Snowbowl

Cenni will bring Ken up to speed. Cenni reminded the board to present it to the city and see if they may cost-share. Tabled until the next meeting.

Repair Service Report and Site Updates

Paden said things have been good and there hasn't been anything major. The unscheduled outages seemed to only be overnight. There were a few calls for TV outages. He reset the equipment, and it went back on. The Fiberhut generator failed to start this morning during a power outage. One of the gas valves was sticking. He ordered a new valve set. Air conditioning units are working happily. Parker will do the PMs in September. Cummins will do PMs in the fall. He will be removing some equipment for the School district. Weeding needs to be done. Dale said they may need to contact NV Energy to see what they use.

Old Business: None

New Business: Paden got an email from KENV, they are looking at going from VHF to UHF broadcast on Grindstone. They will need a new antenna, which would be a prime opportunity to get them on the new tower. They are proposing a UHF ERP of 25 kilowatts. We will need to have a power study done on the transmitter. Cenni noted that anyone at the site will need to know the scheduled outage. Everest Contract will also need to be reviewed. The little tower was given to the amateur radio club and asked it not to be removed. Dale said the ham club can have a prime spot on the new towers to get rid of the small tower.

Dale typed up a mission statement. It is his way of having the board be more policy makers and leave the detail work to staff and contractors. Dale wants the board to ponder these and will decide at the next meeting.

Marisa reminded the board that she will be gone from July 31st through August 11th, so she will have to post the agenda early; however, the meeting date will stay the same.

Public Comment: None

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held on August 14th, 2025.