

## **Elko Television District**

Board Meeting Minutes, December 11th, 2025

6:00 p.m. at the Elko County Courthouse

### **Board Members:**

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

Absent:

**Others Present:** Mike Murphy representing Diversified Consulting Services, Paden Hilyard representing Eagle Communications, Cenni Jimenez representing Premier Wireless, 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 reminded the board to submit their contribution and expense reports. Dale asked Marisa to add the pledge of allegiance to the agenda after roll call. Also, there will be an election of officers in January

### **Budget Workshop**

The purpose of this workshop is to prioritize spending. Ken, Mike and the Board discussed various capital projects. For this fiscal year it was originally budgeted for Adobe site at \$318,000. The cost for the updates to the Ruby Vista site is \$317,000, so the Ruby Vista project will replace the Adobe project. The Fire district has expressed interest in using part of the Ruby Vista building as a volunteer fire station.

To also budget in this current fiscal year is the Peavey Hill Access Road for \$22,500 and removing the old Grindstone tower and ice tray for \$90,000. Mike recommends the board create a purchasing policy. Any project over \$100,000 is required to pay prevailing wages. Dale recommends creating a policy that gives employees the ability to spend up to a certain amount without getting full board approval.

Ken is still waiting to hear back about West Trin Peaks site regarding the Global One Media bankruptcy. It would cover everyone on the upside of town. If that site isn't available, he could contact BLM regarding East Twin Peak. There is already power up there. It would cost about \$500,000 to \$600,000 to build the site. If the TV district was able to increase the boundaries to the same as the county or fire district, the AdValorem taxes would increase to \$1.5 million to \$2 million. It would be good to investigate if the TV District can create a DBA without completely going through the process of making the legal name change, as it would be a much quicker process.

The cost of moving another building to Grindstone and making a pad is \$152,500. Dale recommends budgeting \$100,000 for this current fiscal year and the rest in the next year. For the next fiscal year keep the \$200,000 budget for Encoder PA's and include the removal of the old Grindstone tower and ice bridge. In year 3 or 4, budget for the Twin Peaks site and a possible shared snowcat for \$278,000.

Dale asked Marisa to create a spreadsheet and leave space for each board member to make notes and comment on where they would like these projects to be. Dale suggested looking at the operations budget. The board will be moving some of the services we are contracting for in-house. The budget committee will get with Marisa to review the cost savings and see if any monies need to be moved from Capital Outlay.

Misty suggests meeting separately to discuss the budget. Ken LeBarts moved to hold a special budget meeting in the month of January. Misty Atkins seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous. Dale asked Marisa to message the board with some potential dates.

#### **Discussion and Possible Approval for Part-Time Administrative Assistant**

Dale noted the purpose of this item is to establish this new position and authorize Ken to post the position and make a hiring recommendation. Ken noted the person would be working from home and potentially also at the Ruby Vista building. There is already fiber at the building. Ken stated that board members come and go. There hasn't been anyone to continue organizing things and so each time there are new board members everything is restarted from scratch. Having employees will help create a system. The board will still need a CPA, but 90% of the duties will be handled in-house. The administrative assistant will work directly for Ken.

Kent LeBarts moved to approve the new position of an administrative assistant. Brian Riley seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous. Ken suggested a start date of the week after new years.

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

Ken reported the outages have been terrible in Reno. All signals come into PBS, then get split out between Eureka and Elko. There is currently a one carrier system. Ken is looking at going through several different carriers. The immediate solution right now is for Ken to establish a new route with a redundant backup going through NSHE fiber. The TV District can get one gigabyte for no charge. Ken asked if the board could authorize him to secure it for a maximum of \$2,000 a month. Dale said we will have to agendize it, but the board can approve him to move forward. Paden said the carrier will be a switch blended connection, auto fail over of 3 carriers. NSHE would be a backup connection. It would be about \$800 a month. Ken also reported there has been a variety of pixilation, but during this process it may clear up. Ken is wrapping up with the insurance for the grindstone lighting strike.

#### **Discussion and Possible Approval of Cooperative Agreement with Elko County Public Safety Services, Legal**

Dale said that we have a copy of the agreement and it has been approved by both lawyers. Kent LeBarts moved to approve the Cooperative Agreement. Raymond Mowrey seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

#### **Rocky Mt. Cummins Submitting Final Quote for 5-Year Generator Maintenance Plan**

Brian Riley moved to approve the generator maintenance plan. Kent LeBarts seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

**Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Close of Project New Tower of New Tower on Grindstone and Contractor Updates**

Ken has worked with Cenni. He has all the engineering documents, stamped plans and as-bills. There are over 800 photos on the concrete. It passed the PSI break test. Cenni has provided a one-year warranty. Raymond Mowrey moved to close the New Tower Grindstone project. Brian Riley seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

**Updates Regarding Lightning Strike on Grindstone**

Ken stated that everything is pretty much resolved. Eagle Communications is working on getting a switch. The insurance is good with waiting for the transformer. There is a \$1,000 deductible.

**Eagle Communications Tablets Update & Possible Setup for Distribution, and Email & Internet Use Policy**

The board is currently using the tablets for the meeting. Ken will have the email and internet policy ready for the next meeting.

**Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Future Communications Shelter at Grindstone, Premier Services Providing Budgetary Quote**

Tabled until the special budget meeting.

**Consent Agenda – Minutes from November 11, 2025 Meeting, Treasurers Report, Bill for Payment, 2026 Meeting Dates, On-Call Engineering Report, Committee Reports, Verizon Lamoille Equipment Upgrades and Lease Modifications Approval**

Misty is concerned about the consent agenda. She has seen bad examples of other boards. Misty has been at meetings where people were asking for information, and the public never received the information. Dale noted that he just wanted to try it out.

Raymond Mowrey moved to approve the consent agenda. Brian Riley seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Public Comment:** None

**Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.**

**The next regular meeting will be held on January 8th, 2026.**