



ELKO TELEVISION DISTRICT

PO BOX 456 ELKO, NEVADA 89803

Serving our community through reliable communication

Board Meeting Minutes

July 9th, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Elko County Courthouse

Board Members:

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

Absent: Misty Atkins

Others Present: Mike Murphy representing Diversified Consulting Services, Shelly & Dan Nee representing Shelly Nee Media, Lydia Snow representing the Elko Daily Free Press, Lori Gilbert representing Elko Broadcasting Company, Cenni Jimenez representing Premier Wireless Services, Paden Hilyard representing Eagle Communications, and Ken Wiley and Marisa Reeves as employees of Elko Television District

Proceedings

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

Public Comment: None

Comments From the Chairman

Dale noted a tentative date of July 14th for an EAS meeting with Matt Petersen and Lee Cabinas. Jon Karr did reach out to Dale and is attempting to schedule a meeting with him.

Approval of the Minutes June 11th, 2026 Meeting

Brian Riley moved to accept the minutes from the June 11th, 2026 meeting. Kent LeBarts seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report

Marisa noted to the board the changes to the Five-Year Capital Projects list resulting from ongoing issues at the Grindstone Site, as well as electricity blackouts caused by fires and lightning strikes. Raymond Mowrey 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. Kent LeBarts seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

Repair Service Report and Site Updates by Ken

Ken reported that it has been a bad month for lightning on Grindstone. There was a 12-hour outage affecting Salt Lake City channels on June 20th. He was never given a reason for the outage. There have been issues with Grindstone power loss and generator failure. Ken was unable to get in contact of Cummins. He had Cenni get an emergency generator from Reno in case of another outage. Nevada Gold Mines reported another power outage on Grindstone. The generator could not tell that the A/C came back on, so it never turned off and ran out of propane. Propane was delivered this morning. Paden also replaced the monitoring system.

The concrete pad on Grindstone was poured, and a break test was performed. Ken received quotes for a replacement generator for Grindstone. Due to several data centers being built, various equipment, like servers, is delayed. Ken received two quotes for the Grindstone Ice tray. He approved the NNE quote as it was the lowest bid. The project should begin in the next few weeks.

Ken received a quote from Quantum Electric for the Ruby Vista site. Cenni is to put gravel around the Grindstone concrete pad. The quote was accepted, and the work should start in about a week. NNE will be locating the Grindstone main power from the top of the site to the base of the mountain. NNE will install conduit from the generator building. The power and conduit quote was approved for Quantum Electric. There will be two separate 200-amp feeds to the new communications buildings. The Grindstone tower extension was delivered. Verizon will start on the icetray on Lamoille next week. The A/Cs from Parker came in and will be installed on the buildings on Thursday next week.

Discussion and Possible Approval of Quote #1468 for \$44,791.35 from Premier to Load and Transport Communications Shelters to Grindstone and Install on New Building Pads with Mounts and Grounding

Kent LeBarts moved to approve the quote from Premier Wireless to move the buildings to Grindstone. Brian Riley seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

On-Call Engineering Report – DCS, Mike Murphy

Mike reported they have finished designing the sewer lift station. They just had a meeting with the City of Elko about it this morning. They will be putting the lift station in the street and will address it in the rental agreement for the building. The City has agreed to increase the square footage by expanding the leased area on the south side in order to install ADA parking. The backyard will change configuration a little bit so they will be able to put the gate at a 90 degree angle. The City will pay for the pipe if we do the labor. Mike got permission for a 40-foot tower at the back of the building.

They will be surveying Grindstone tomorrow. NNE was able to locate the power line. All the splicing was done in pole boxes. Not all of them are in good shape. He will take pictures, number the boxes, and then can discuss remediation. The building move and generator is progressing rapidly as quotes are furnished. He hopes to get the buildings up and operational within a month or so.

He is currently working on the underground stuff for Ruby Vista, and then the storm drain will be in the next round. He needs one more quote to swap the doors for fire doors to get things back into fire code. Cathy and Dale Johnson from the City have been really good at trying to work with the TV District.

Discussion Possible Approval of Amendments to City of Elko Fire Department and Ruby Vista Lease Agreements

Mike noted they are still working on getting everything together. He wants to do it all together rather than in little stages.

Committee Reports

Budget Committee, Infrastructure Committee, and Translator/Programming Committee

Nothing to report. Ray mentioned there was a little pixelation on the translator; he told Ken about it, and it got fixed.

Presentation by Shelly Nee about Setting Up and Operating A Low Power TV (LPTV) Station and Discussion and Possible Approval of Hiring Shelly Nee to Assist the TV District In Establishing an LPTV Station in the Elko Area and All Matters Related Thereto

Shelly Nee gave a PowerPoint presentation. She noted there are many rules to consider from the FCC. 28 years ago, she was asked to start a broadcasting class. She has served on the local TV board for 18 years. They started broadcasting in 2001 with a temporary license. They got a permanent license in 2003. When they first got the license, they did not have PBS in their community. They brought in PBS but had to interrupt programming if they wanted to add anything. They broadcast two channels, one specifically for PBS. She is familiar with operating an emergency signal. They put a weather station on top of the school, and it had a camera. They did all the ads, announcements, and other things at the top of the hour; they didn't interrupt the programming. They did a 6-hour loop of programming. It was a pre-recorded program. Then there were special times to cut in for live programming. They started off with a very good library system. People would ask for old videos all the time. Shelly shared a video showing the kids and how they broadcast TV. She has been in the planning stages and the 'what do we do' stages. She has done a lot of things that work. Her specialty is training people and kids. Every year she had to start from scratch. They would do fundraisers to get funding.

Dale noted that Shelly had made presentations when he was a contractor. They wanted the Elko TV District to join, but unfortunately Elko never joined in with Lovelock TV. Shelly has unique skills, the personality, drive, and ability to work with multiple stakeholders. The FCC has told us they don't see issues with us getting licenses, but it may be 30 to 180 days. Kent thinks it's a wonderful idea and he'd like to see it happen. Brian says Shelly is very valuable. He loves her energy and has hope for a channel.

Lydia asked what the show would look like. Shelly said they are discussing an entire channel with 24/7 content. Shelly would not be involved with the hosting; she is just here to help lift this off.

Ray asked if she was assisting others? She said she has been asked. Covid kind of killed them. There is a woman who owns about 36 LPTV stations; she has some partners in Montana and Wyoming. Filling the content is an extremely big challenge.

Ken said several things haven't been discussed. EAS equipment has already been ordered, and it's quite comprehensive. There is a station here in Elko, Noah, that we can get weather content from. Some content could be Public Safety infomercials, such as what to do in case of a wildfire, checking your smoke detectors, keeping your property clear for fires, etc. Paden has been maintaining the equipment down in Lovelock, so he is familiar with the equipment.

Lori stated that Shelly is wonderful. Lori has seen a lot of changes. They used to have to put tapes on a plane to Reno. She knows the technology, but she also understands the licensing requirements. Most

information is produced and shared on multiple platforms. No matter how the information is spread, it needs to be done in a proper manner.

Dale would like the board to address this in a few parts. First, a motion to approve a conditional offer of employment, with the details to be hammered out between Ken and Shelly in consultation with the appropriate committee; second, the Board will direct programming and work with Shelly and Ken to create a strategic plan for how Shelly will work with us, select some dates to come up with the overall vision, and discuss and approve any major decision. The TV District is three years from when a license will be granted. It will take 3 years to develop a plan. The TV District will be the vehicle, and Shelly will be the driver.

Brian Riley moved to approve hiring Shelly, with details to be worked out between Ken and the proper committee. Kent LeBarts seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

Brian Riley moved to authorize the Programming and Translator Committee to be the lead working on this project moving forward. Kent LeBarts seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

Lori offered to volunteer to help if there is anything Shelly needs.

Discussion and Possible Action on Communications System Specialist Series and Working with Elko County HR to Hire a Specialist Upon Review. County 911 Approved \$85k for Technician Service Truck to Support New Position

Ken has been working with Ray on putting things together. Marisa did a spell check. She will send over the job description to County HR next week. Ken would like to get someone hired by the end of September so they can become familiar with the systems before winter. No action needed.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Latest Power and Generator Outage, Rolling Power Outages from NV Energy, and Comparing Renting a 56KW Towable Portable Generator or Purchasing a Used 56KW Generator

Ken noted that with the high winds, the outer areas of Elko, like Ryndon, will get hit the most with power outages. A portable generator will run any TV District site. If there are outages in the county, we can share that information with EMS and Elko County Fire in certain circumstances. Ken wants to get the generator that is currently being rented looked at before purchasing. The generator has been rented until the 27th of this month. It has been offered to us at \$19,000. He looked at a few used generator units that are newer, and they are about \$30,000 to \$35,000. If the evaluation of the rented generator checks out, that would be plan A. Plan B is to find something in the \$25,000 price range. Ken asked if the board could authorize him to purchase a backup generator up to \$25,000.

Ray feels the TV District needs a generator of our own. He would like to see a good evaluation of the rented generator. Brian also agrees to purchase a generator, especially since the TV District is responsible for emergency broadcasting. Dale has reached out to the supervisor of Elko City Fire for the mechanic to look at the generator. It would be best to tow it over to their yard. He doesn't expect anything to be done next week.

Raymond Mowrey moved to authorize Ken to pursue purchasing a backup generator with a budget limitation of \$25,000. Brian Riley seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

Discussion and Possible Action on Premier Wireless and Complete Management Updates on Grindstone and Verizon Lamoille

Cenni reported that on Lamoille Verizon is moving forward with the build. They will be onsite next week for a meeting. They will start the tower work, but a couple of weeks later they will start the underground process. It will probably be completed in the next month or two. Katie hasn't answered Cenni, but she replied to Marisa's email. Cenni, Ken, and Mike had a meeting about a temporary cable tray for the microwave because they have to move everything over; they don't want any service impacts for Verizon. The tray will sit on a rubber mat on top of the building.

Old Business: None

New Business: Ken

Brian asked the board about investigating solar as a backup. The price of power is going to go up. Kent said solar is great; however, it only works in the daytime and only works well in the sunlight. The cost is significant for the batteries. Spruce Mountain is solar because they couldn't run power. That solar site can be seen from space. Ken noted it also gathers a lot of ice. It's a good idea, but for mountain-top applications it doesn't really work. Brian is talking about using solar only during the day to help cut power costs, not necessarily switching all power to solar. Dale feels it is best to refer it to the infrastructure committee to investigate it in the future. Kent noted that power companies are getting upset because of solar power. California power companies charge a fee to have solar.

Public Comment: None

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held on August 6th, 2026.