

Eureka County Television District

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BOARD OF EUREKA COUNTY TELEVISION DISTRICT

Minutes

March 19, 2021

I. Call to order (For Possible Action)

- a. Roll Call-Establish Quorum A *Quorum was established by President Leppala with all members present.*
- b. Pledge of Allegiance *Member Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.*
- c. Approve meeting agenda as presented or make changed as needed. *Member Brown moved to approve the agenda with Member Whimple seconding. Vote (5-0) to approve.*

II. Public Comment and Discussion

Consider items requiring action to be placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting. **(Discussion)**

Notice: The public is welcome to request agenda items for future meetings during the Public Comment period, or may consult with one or more of the Television District to request agenda items for future meetings.

President Leppala discussed the need for the Board to change the regular date for the monthly meeting. Currently there may be a conflict with the County Commissioner meetings on the third Friday of each month. He requested that this be put on the next agenda.

President Leppala also discussed the need for the Board to look into purchasing a new vehicle for winter accessibility of the mountain tops. The current machine is used by Search and Rescue as well as TV District personnel. The tracks on the machine have not worked well and had to be removed. Wheels alone are not sufficient to access during the winter. Paden told the Board that there is a need for the vehicle to have a blade that can move snow.

No members of the Public presented comments at this time.

III. Approval of minutes of last meeting *Member Brown motioned to approve the minutes as presented with Member Whimple seconding. Vote (5-0) to approve.*

IV. Discussion/Action Items

- a) Presentation by Eagle Communications of progress and plans. This includes a status report for migration to fiber at Prospect as well as discussion about internet provider for Argenta and any equipment needed.. *Prospect is completely migrated to fiber. Eagle Communications received a quote for the equipment to convert the signal for the TV District. The quote was twice as much as originally discussed at \$124,339. The district budgeted half of that given the information last year. Paden is in communications with CC Communications for a bid for fiber delivery. He believes that this connection may be valuable given the difference in pricing. He does not have a time frame for this item. One possibility may be to consider a limited contract with AT&T for about \$1500. to \$1800 Each month.*

- b) Discuss a partnership with Lander County for fiber use for Argenta Peak. *Paden has not had any communication with anyone from Lander County. President Leppala asked if any equipment is needed for Argenta. Paden told him there are two possible directions. They will have to change the feed to fiber. One option would be to do the same as was done at Tank. 30 watt equipment is discontinued. The current equipment is \$15,000 per channel with a total cost of 124,349. There are 8 channels to be converted. President Leppala asked if there is any salvage value for the equipment. Paden said there is no value. They may want to look into amplifiers but this is outdated and the manufacturer no longer exists to support it. Member Whimple asked what the cost would be to convert. Paden said it would be roughly \$5,000 per channel. It is old equipment but this may be a path to move forward with the current budget. Paden was asked if this was what occurred at Prospect. He said it was with the difference of that equipment was made obsolete about a month after ordering. President Leppala told the Board that they would have to increase the budget for next year with this information. Splitting the costs for equipment may be a means of moving the project forward. The risk is that there is limited repairs available. Decommissioning Mary's may leave some equipment available for use.*
- c) Review and Approve or Deny Eagle Communications bid for replacement antennas. *For the record, Paden told the group that this was an antenna on Prospect. The manufacturer has determined they would warranty the equipment. A tower crew will have to be hired to go and replace this antenna. President Leppala gave authority to hire the crew.*
- d) Discuss, and possibly take action to replace Leslie Lotspeich as secretary of the TV District. There are 2 applicants for this position. *President Leppala asked for a resume to be sent for all applicants and this would be reviewed at the next meeting.*
- e) National Translators Association Convention update. The website says they will have the convention from May 20 – 23. No registration information yet. *Leslie told the Board that no registration is open on the website. President Leppala said that he did not want the same thing as last time in which money was not sent on time. Leslie will get the registration complete. President Leppala said he will call the NTA to get more information.*
- f) Expense Report (**For Possible Action**)

Eagle Communications: \$3000.00 maintenance agreement (March)
 Elko Television District: \$982.30 (March)
 Humboldt County Television District: \$ 823.04 (Fiber service to Humboldt County) (March)
 Switch Data Center \$ 719.20
 Leslie Lotspeich: \$1500. Administrative Duties (March)

Any other bills received after the agenda was posted. (A list of bills and supporting documents will be submitted to the Board at the meeting). *Two additional invoices were added . Premier Services invoiced \$1950. For work at Prospect following the antennas falling down. The other invoice was for Switch for fiber services. \$3723.26 for the next month. Leslie told the Board that she called to ask about the billing. The response from a phone call was not satisfactory. The billing was to correct late or missed billing. Paden explained that some of the billing is to connect across the various agencies. There appear to be several agencies needed to get the signal to Switch and these are being billed. Eureka will be paying \$1400 a month for a connection to the network. Paden said his review of the costs appears to be correct. The billed connection fee and the installation fees appear to be correct. Paden said that \$968 is a one time fee. Leslie asked if there would be additional charges when Argenta is connected. Joe Whimple asked about the fees total. Paden showed how these were correct. There is a state discount that is applied to the billing. The lease included a floating*

number that changes depending on what is needed. Paden indicated that these fees appear to be accurate but include fees that were missed during the last months cycle.

President Leppala asked to table this invoice until more information could be provided.

Member Brown motioned to approve with Member Whimple seconding to pay the expenses including Premier Services. Vote (5-0) to approve.

V. **Maintenance Report (For Discussion Only)** There was one major outage. This included Elko but did not have the ability to monitor. A reboot fixed the problem. Cummins was called to work on a generator at Argenta. Paden said that Cummins is claiming an unpaid late charge. That was paid in January. Paden will be working on getting in touch with a real person to get this fixed.

a) Mary's Mountain Mary's Mountain is still online.

b) White Pine County Feed and Programming Paden was asked about the Las Vegas channel. He said that the signal is still coming but in the event of bad weather, the signal is not strong enough. The owners of the equipment have not determined to upgrade the equipment. The problems appear to be a factor of bad weather and ice. He was asked how far does the signal have to go? He estimated about 80 miles. Elko is working on getting a new connection for their service. This may include a partnership with Eureka County to share in the costs.

c) Argenta Peak

d) Tank Hill Everything is working properly.

e) Prospect Peak

f) Fiber Delivery President Leppala asked about this item.

VI. **Discussion and possible approval of additional work, equipment & improvements at various sites –**

Member Whimple read the request for the use of the snowcat into the record by the County Search and Rescue. The County snowcat operator is included in the request. Motion for approval of use of the TV District snowcat equipment with the coordination from the County personnel was made by Member Whimple with a second by Member Moylan. This includes future use that is coordinated with County personnel. Vote (5-0) to approve

VII. **Old Business** April 6 needs to have a quorum of members to attend a Commissioner meeting to review the budget. This is a preliminary meeting before the final submission. Member Whimple said he will be able to attend. The budget was discussed in January. The budget will have to be reviewed and submitted again. President Leppala expressed concern about the agenda not having the budget posted because the notification was made this morning. May is the final date for the final submission of the budget. President Leppala indicated that no decisions can be made about the budget before the next meeting.

Member Brown asked how the hiring of the secretary would occur. The applicants will be reviewed by the Board, then a vote will be taken in an open meeting.

VIII. **New Business** No new business

IX. **Public Comment**

None at this time.

Adjournment (For Possible Action)