

# Boundary County Translator District

Regular Meeting—Board of Directors

August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Allen Gemmrig, Chairman called the regular meeting of the Boundary County Translator District Board of Directors to order at 5:00 p.m.**

## 1. Roll Call Present:

### a. Board Members:

Allen Gemmrig

Anthony Compton - Excused

Dave Wenk

Heather Gemmrig

John Youngwirth

### Also Present:

Marlaina Davy

Eric Lederhos

Dustin Moses

## 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- a. Dave Wenk motioned to approve the minutes from the previous month's meeting. John Youngwirth seconded. Dave Wenk voted yes, Allen Gemmrig voted yes, John Youngwirth voted yes, Heather Gemmrig voted yes, motion carried.

## 3. Treasurer's Report

Dave Wenk motioned to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Allen Gemmrig seconded. Allen Gemmrig voted yes, John Youngwirth voted yes, Heather Gemmrig voted yes, Dave Wenk voted yes, motion carried.

Dave Wenk asked for clarification on the EL Automation bill regarding checking out of keys, and fielding phone calls from residences. Eric responded that a basic charge of \$100.00 is added monthly to the EL bill as an admin cost.

## 4. Old Business:

- a. Facility Plan (Action Item) – This item to be tabled to September meeting once Anthony has had a chance to go up to Black Mountain to review the security camera access.
- b. Solution For Security Camera Access (Action Item) – Anthony will not be able to go up to Black Mountain to evaluate this until September. This item to be tabled to the September meeting.
- c. Black Mountain Generator Quote (Action Item) – Eric recommended taking the current generator from Black Mountain and moving it to the Copper Creek site. The estimate for building the rack for the generator, and installing the generator was presented to the board in the amount of \$4,448.35. This item tabled until we receive information from the US Forest Service.
- d. Solar Panels and Charger at Copper Creek (Action Item) – We burned six gallons of propane in two weeks. Eric stated that we need approximately 30 more solar panels. We do not have the room for the additional solar panels that are needed to sustain the site. Eric recommends that we do not go this

route, as he would like to have a communications shelter at this location. Eric has been in contact with the US Forest Service to discuss a communications shelter at the Copper Creek site. Allen Gemmrig requested Eric to get prices for a new and used communications shelter. Dave Wenk suggested checking out the state and federal surplus listings. Eric reported that one nice thing about a container shelter is that the array can be attached to the steel building. If you try a lighter communication building it will not withstand the additional weight of the solar panels. This item tabled until we receive information from the US Forest Service.

- e. PLC System (Action Item) – Eric said this is relative to Black Mountain, where we were talking about taking out the PLC and putting in the switch. Tabled to when Anthony can attend the meeting.
- f. Generator Move (Action Item) – See item c above.
- g. 2021 – 2022 Budget (Action Item) – Allen Gemmrig motioned to approve the budget of \$20.00 per serviceable unit for a total budget of \$152,450.00 for the 2021 – 2022 fiscal year. Dave Wenk seconded. Heather Gemmrig yes, Allen Gemmrig yes, Dave Wenk yes, John Youngwirth yes.
- h. Copper Creek Power Upgrades – The logical thing to do is put the batteries and the array on the shelf. Solar panels have come down in costs along with lithium batteries. Dustin Moses reported that Intermax can take on some of the additional costs to upgrade the site. Further discussion was had, about getting power to the Copper Creek location. There may be grants available. John Youngwirth said we should look to see how much it would cost to get power to the location and then have the generator and batteries as backup. Eric will talk to Northern Lights to get an estimated cost of getting power to the site. Eric will also contact the Forest Service to see if they will allow us to run power to the site, as it will save a lot of traffic to the site. Allen Gemmrig stated that this site is not going away, and we have emergency services at this site, so we need to come up with a plan to upgrade the power situation. Dustin said that Intermax can help with looking for grants to help with the power at the location. Intermax and EL Automation will do some research on grants that may be available. EL Automation will contact Northern Lights to see if we can get power to the Copper Creek site. One thing Allen requested to be mentioned to Northern Lights is that Fire 1 is at Copper Creek, and it is an emergency service. Tabled to the next board meeting where EL Automation and Intermax will report back on their findings.

## **5. Maintenance Report**

- a. T-Mobile now has hired MassTech to install the equipment on the tower and the building. T-Mobile sent an email stating “T-Mobile will need a 200a service to turn up their designed equipment, per their nation standards. The originally agreed upon 60a, will be fine for the moment to get their equipment installed and tested, but they will not be able to bring this site on the air until the power is upgraded. We can discuss how this happens within the upcoming weeks, as it pertains to the source and the details of the backup power.” John Youngwirth stated that the pricing was figured at 60 amps service, and we can provide the requested amps to satisfy the contract. Heather Gemmrig asked if we can supply the 200 amps, Eric said yes. The plan was that we were going to install the 200amp generator and feed them 60 amps off that generator. Much discussion was had regarding the large power increase requested by T-

Mobile. Eric reported that everything can stay as it is, and we can put the new generator in to feed just T-Mobile's equipment. We were hoping for room to grow when we agreed to have T-Mobile purchase the generator. Eric will tell T-Mobile that the contract is for 60 amps of service, and we can provide the 60 amps as agreed to in the contract. If they want something other than 60 amps that are included in the contract, they will need to pay for the engineering. Tabled to next month's meeting.

- b. We lost the amplifier that was just replaced. Eric's office is having his office investigate the warranty on the amplifier as we purchased it in July 2021. The last amplifier lasted years and this one only lasted a few months. Eric would like to get the amplifier replaced and to have a spare for future. Allen Gemmrig motioned to spend no more than \$800.00 for an amplifier for a spare. Dave Wenk seconded. Heather Gemmrig yes, Allen Gemmrig yes, Dave Wenk yes, John Youngwirth yes.

## **6. New Business:**

- a. Tower Spring on Black Mountain (Action Item) - This has not been completed at this time. A replacement spring is not available as you must replace the surround and mounts, not just the spring. This is under warranty according to our records, and they have not gotten back to Eric as of today. Allen Gemmrig requested Eric to see if he can get a stainless-steel spring as a temporary fix, until the warranty issue can be resolved.
- b. 2019 and 2020 Audit (Action Item) - Dave Wenk motioned to accept the audit as presented. Heather seconded. Allen Gemmrig voted yes, John Youngwirth voted yes, Heather Gemmrig voted yes, Dave Wenk voted yes, motion carried.
- c. K102 Interference Issues (Action Item) – Dave Wenk brought up the mixing of stations on K102. He said if this was on a tv station, it would be fixed already. Eric is going to temporarily mount the new antenna down lower to see if it fixes the issue.
- d. Black Mountain USFS Building (Action Item) – Eric reported that we will be receiving an email if this building comes available, but he has not received anything other than the first phone call asking if the Translator District was interested in the building. Eric Lederhos and Allen Gemmrig will see if they can get more information on this. Tabled to next month's meeting.
- e. Surplus Equipment (Action Item) The Board discussed possible surplus equipment including the snowmobiles, side by side, and the trailer. Eric mentioned other equipment that is no longer being used that may need to be listed as surplus and added to the auction or thrown away. Eric will bring a list of surplus equipment for next month's meeting.
- f. Seventh-day Adventist church will be given a rent estimate figure of \$305.00 per month.

## **7. Correspondence:**

- a. USDA Forest Service Compliance Inspection Rescheduled to September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. (Action Item) - Eric is planning to go up to the sites in a couple days and will look at who is now in compliance. Dustin reported that Intermax has been up to the sites and cleaned up the equipment and their equipment is now in compliance. Pictures were presented to Dustin for review, and Marlaina will email Dustin a copy of the pictures

tomorrow to verify that their equipment is now compliant with the site standards.

- b. StarTouch, Inc. Email Regarding Black Mountain Questions (Action Item)  
StarTouch submitted an application for lease, as they will be a back feed for T-Mobile. Eri reported that space is available for the equipment that they requested. A monthly rental fee of \$30.00 will cover the equipment they have listed on the application. Allen Gemmrig motioned to approve the application for lease and a fee of \$30.00 per month for rent along with the annual site service fee. Dave Wenk seconded. Dave Wenk voted yes, Allen Gemmrig voted yes, John Youngwirth voted yes, Heather Gemmrig voted yes, motion carried.

## **8. Tax Waiver Applications:**

- a. Anthony & Rachael Brubaker – 17 Whip Saw Road (Action Item) Allen motioned to have Eric go to this address and all the others listed on the current exemption list to see if any of the exemptions receive radio service, as this has not been verified in a few years. John Youngwirth seconded. Dave Wenk voted yes, Allen Gemmrig voted yes, John Youngwirth voted yes, Heather Gemmrig voted yes, motion carried. This will be tabled until we receive the testing results.

## **9. Executive Session:**

- a. None

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, at 5 p.m. at the office of Youngwirth, Davis & Associates.**