

## BOCC Update - Oct. 25, 2021

Here is the most current official figures I have, this does not include 2021 figures. The TV District has used approximately \$50,000 of its reserve fund to date, has received a promise of \$50,000 from the County for capital repairs incurred from the January collapse and \$70,000 from the Washington St. Dept. of Commerce Safe Start Initiative.

### One Time Grants & Contributions Due to Winter Disaster

Reserve Funds	\$50,000	To date
Okanogan County	50,000	Disaster Restricted - capital only
Safe Start	70,000	
Total	\$170,000	

These one time contributions are weighed against the following estimated costs of which are some already incurred, others are near future but necessary costs. These are estimates there will be other additional costs. An example is a single trip by the Spokane Technicians without doing any work is \$710 round trip. Generally taxes, shipping and installation are not included.

Replacement Antennas (Broadcasters General Store)	4,000	Replace damaged Antennas
Temporary Tower install (Harrington Aerial)	4,000	
Emergency Winterization of existing structure	60,000	
Replacement Tower (Harrington Aerial - Pending Approval)	33,000	Sturdier
Replacement Transmitters at Omak Mtn. (KSPS - 5 units)	39,000	
Replacement Transmitters at Remote Sites. (KSPS - 9 units)	60,000	
New Antennas & Combiner (Broadcasters General Store)	30,000	Wider area coverage,
Repair & Restore (KSPS Technicians)	10,000	
New Building (Very Preliminary pending approval)	70,000	
Total	\$310,000	

The TV District has a long way to go to make these numbers agree. During the crisis caused by the disaster the TV District lost voluntary assessments. On the enclosed financial statement the voluntary assessment values of the past three years are higher than our current numbers; estimated to be under \$30,000 by years end. Without restoring

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reliability and quality our voluntary assessments will continue to decline. Our efforts in the current process is to regain our viewers and their willingness to contribute.

Due to the weather related January event being declared a disaster by FEMA we are seeking reimbursement. FEMA reimbursement is at 75% of incurred costs with a State contribution of 12.5% for a total of 87.5% reimbursement. Qualified costs must be directly related to the tower collapse and subsequent damage and includes needed upgrades to meet current codes and conditions. As well, justified mitigation costs to avoid future problems can be submitted. We are in the process of submissions and do not have any final outcome at this time. We do have a reimbursement for our initial emergency repair to get back on the air of \$7579.25 authorized and due to sent soon. No electronics are covered as they were not directly damaged. Remote site work is not covered in any way (Fox @ Malott, Olive @ Riverside, Pickens @ Ellisforde) Potentially the emergency restoration, tower related, winterization and new building and related costs would qualify for FEMA reimbursement. The exact amount to be reimbursed cannot be determined at this time as each final invoice must be submitted and accepted by FEMA through its review process. All reimbursement funds will be put back into there Repair, Restoration and Improvement process.

Okanogan County funds are also restricted to this category of costs and cannot be doubled billed. The District has to front fund all costs and then be reimbursed. As the FEMA timeline for is reimbursement is unknown this puts the TV District in a cash flow problem. Equally our financial agent is Okanogan County so all invoices must be submitted through them with accompanying support before any payment is forthcoming. A normal billing cycle is 6 weeks minimum. Currently the County workforce is in difficulty due to COVID related issues and slower in its processing.

Through the process of recovery from the January store the TV District took a detailed assessment of the system and has set out to harden and rehabilitate the whole system. Replacement of all old electronics for common, compatible equipment with up to date capable ability. The TV District must establish reliable, comprehensive service or dwindle away over the future. Additionally our goal is expansion of our service area to meet our stated mission of serving at low cost residents who may be low income, remote

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& rural, elderly, minority and/or any one else in the Central Okanogan Valley and surroundings. The District has identified expansion into the Nespelem as being of highest priority. Some of the current and proposed changes at the Omak site incorporate that goal so that future changes will not need to be made to that a end. An example is the larger tower and broader broadcast area antennas.

The TV District has discussed with a variety of individuals and agencies across our service area and identified a need to carry an emergency & public service information stream. During times of local disasters (primarily fire) emergency information is difficult to come by. One way to help bridge that gap is a video stream that has such information. The capability to provide that information stream is being built into the current rebuild. This stream is capable of full sound and video content. It is envisioned that other agencies and groups such as educational, governmental and public service organizations would contribute content and management to operate the public interest information stream. The TV District has and will do more outreach to foster this concept. It is hoped that the CCT and Tribal, County, State, Public Health & Medical, Educational and others would be a player in this effort. Again, the capability is being installed, there is only a need for the implementation of others.

George Thornton

TV Reception District #1 of Okanogan County