LUCERNE VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

November 4, 2020

Meeting called to order 5PM.

**Minutes** approved.  Moved George. Passed.

**Treasurer’s Report.** Dave Rib reported. Collection last month $212. Gave Moose Lodge $50. Paid annual insurance $500. Balance $5189.34.

**Sheriff Dana Weinberg.** Detective Famer reported. No stats available on Marijuana task force. Should have stats in December. Five teams working the area. Please call the number and leave your name and number or anonymous. No legal grows in our area. Several questions and answers about this frustrating subject.

Question about the multiple fires occurring. Made one arrest but he was released within hours. Not much to say about them. One resident filled out a request form for extra patrol on Rabbit Springs Rd. due to all the fires. May or may not make a difference.

CHP officer Mumford couldn’t come but sent stats: 16 citations issued, one verbal warning, and nine vehicle impoundments.

**Peter Livingston for LVUSD** Enrollment end of October 862. Highest in five years. Elementary school on a project to write letters to veterans at Barstow home. Sports starting back up. No kids at school. Elementary school working on hybrid schedule. Other schools in the area following suit. Always pushing to do more to get the kids back to school. Working under restrictions put in place by Gov. Newsom.

**Chuck Bell.** He and Dave Rib and Richard Selby on a committee with MWA. Looked at aerial photos which showed the plywood fences on marijuana grows in order to estimate water usage. Probably 750 acre feet of water per year. Same as one humongous alfalfa field. Water being stolen, or taken without permits from Environmental Health. Trying to find a way to get MWA Water Master to deal with the situation. We are the only state to make the growing a misdemeanor.

**Jim Harvey from Homestead Community Council**. Prop 64 passed by voters in 2016, making marijuana recreational use legal. Also addressed cultivation, addressing code 11358 on page 62, which made illegal cultivation a felony with 2 years prison and $100,000 fine. But then illegal cultivation was downgraded to a misdemeanor, 6 months in jail and $500 fine. This downgrading to a misdemeanor is what’s causing the flood of grows in our area.

Jim and some others are pursuing legislative correction. Angle will be that prop 64 stated the purpose to eliminate cartels, black market, etc. Since those purposes not being pursued or achieved, a legislative correction becomes possible. Must be addressed at state level.

Senator Shannon Grove and field rep. Dominic Heiden are assisting in this effort. We do NOT have to just live with this. We can deal with it.

Dawn Rowe hopes to get funding from legal cannabis industry since the illegal industry takes money out of their pockets.

**Chuck on LV Community Plan.** Board of Supervisors just took action on the community plans. Supervisor Rowe voted in support of our position to keep local needs in the forefront.

Stage Coach Solar is proposing a solar project on state lands, which is not under County jurisdiction. We made comments in their scoping meeting, and will submit comments in writing.

**Jason Hanson, a new resident**. A new project working on for 8 months, with a 501C3. Realized there was no emergency plan for the area. Worked with sheriff, to supplement personnel lack in sheriff and fire departments. Force multiplier. Now have 103 people on a mailing list: prior military, medical, etc. Have assembled a leadership team, a communications unit. Trying to work with churches and community centers to prepare them. Assembled animal rescue team that saved over 100 animals in Apple Fire. Drone command to use drones in search and rescue. Lots of features and capabilities in the drones. Called Homestead Valley Help. Have a Facebook page. Chuck: this might help out with our disaster preparedness plan that we are supposed to be doing with the County Fire. Can we integrate ours with this one. Jason is involved with several organizations that do this stuff and may be able to help. Assembling equipment and training.

Chuck reviewed some of the election results. Jay Obernolte will be our Congressman. Thurston Smith will be Assemblyman. Repealing fire tax failed. County Charter reform failed. Making Supervisors part time passed overwhelmingly which puts us at the mercy of unelected bureaucrats.

Will there be more virus testing in LV Leader? Too few knew about the last one. Mark will get us a date for another testing.

Question from Bill Lembright: Why doesn’t Code Enforcement enforce the County code requiring any fence higher than 6’. Marijuana fences are 8’. What about administrative citations and fines per plant like other counties are doing? Working with state on that angle.

Chuck: why can’t our severely economically disadvantaged communities get some kind of grant to beef up code enforcement, which is a great need here, along with law enforcement.

Some of the marijuana grower are poisoning wildlife. Jim Harvey says Prop 64 also addresses environmental concerns like this.

Meeting adjourned 6:06