**MINUTES**

**LUCERNE VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (LVEDA)**

**Monday, June 6, 2022 – 5:00 PM – Moose Lodge**

Meeting called to order 5:04 PM at Moose Lodge.

Minutes approved. Moved by Linda, seconded by Debbie

**County Fire Chief Munsey** – a general description of the fire hazards in the desert, grass blown by wind, and a large number of structures. Revenue from ambulance gets reinvested into emergency medical services, by law. Rescues from accidents, rock climbers, off roaders, train accidents, hazmat incidents, etc. Mission is to prevent things from happening so that calls don’t happen in the first place. Volunteerism on the decline, and the reserve programs require very strict training requirements to maintain certifications. Fire is not a department but is a district within the county. County has no obligation to Fire Protection District to fund any of the services, but does contract with the district for areas like LV because they cover such a large area.

Re FP5. Funding for fire station in LV is not adequate from the 1% property tax. FP5 now funds the balance at $62 per parcel. Funds are required to stay within the area in which it was raised. Measure Z on ballot would have raised $42.7 million. North deserts get $10 million of this. And sheriffs and fire are understaffed in this area. Some costs are being paid for by contracts with SCE, SWG, and others who need their services. Very difficult to hire firefighters and paramedics now. Forest Service is in a crisis for staffing which will mean larger fires.

No funding with which to replace FP5 revenue. New engines, new stations, prevailing wage have to be paid out of this. It was imposed on the county at large in a way that was not transparent, so people were angry and resistant. It got placed on the ballot by the creation of an assessment district and then getting placed on the ballot. Currently invalidated by the court. Red Brennan Group has opposed the fire district with statements that are not true. The cost of them putting this on the ballot comes out of the fire district funds, which reduces their ability to staff engines. Flat fee/parcel to keep costs low for everyone. As of right now, FP5 is still in effect.

70% of their calls are medical calls, but they take much less time than fire calls. Be sure to have a working smoke detector to help yourself and fire district.

Ambulance subscription service is a service to the community.

County fire guys gave their local stats. Last month May: 128 incidents and the breakdown. Trying to engage with the students in the schools to increase the awareness and interest in public safety careers. Pushed the necessity of smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

**Treasurer’s Report**. Collection April 4 - $230. Gave $30 to Moose Lodge. Balance $3,295.93. Report by Cynthia, David Rib absent so no collection.

**SHERIFF**: (Sgt. Weinberg). Very short of staff. Lost three deputies in recent weeks. Re calls for “Shots heard” – if just shots heard but no victim, they are not allowed to respond. Watch the video of Sheriff Dicus’ presentation to Supervisors. They are hamstrung by state rules in their battle against the growers. E.g. use of a drone requires a search warrant.

**CONGRESSMAN OBERNOLTE**: (Report by Hayden) 1. Re high gas prices and ours being highest in the country. Obernolte working on six different bills to bring back energy production to this country. Restore drilling permits. 2. Inflation. 8.3% increase based on May stats. Fight it by controlling runaway govt spending. Pass a constitutional amendment to balance the budget. 3. Southern border. Completion of border wall. Visited the border to see firsthand. Discussed the Post Office service and hours. New limited hours are very unpopular.

**ASSEMBLYMAN SMITH**. AB 2728 dealing with civil penalty for unlicensed cannabis.

**LV SCHOOL DISTRICT** (Chelsea and Jason Hanson ) New staff, new programs coming. New digital signs. New portables at high school. Maintenance on roofs and on floors. Pivotal Practice award. Working with Victor Valley College to get students into training programs.

**L.V. MUSEUM** (Chelsea) Got first fire truck on display. Need $2-3000 to restore it.

**8 MINUTE SOLAR PROJECT REPORT**. Alex Sundquist presented their project. Just simple solar panels that rotate east to west. No towers or fancy stuff. Located far from residents. 1 mile east of Barstow Rd. and 1 ½ miles north of Lucerne Springs. One reason project was moved from original location was to cooperate with desire to keep it out of sight and minimally impacting residents.

Chuck’s list of road projects to be on a future agenda.

Barbara La Grange will be the contact for the high desert paper The Pulse. They are working to have special pages for Lucerne Valley.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Donna Soria – 4th of July parade is on!

Chuck Bell announced June 25 Household Hazardous Waste event behind the fire station.

No meeting in July.

Meeting adjourned 7:19.