LUCERNE VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

May 5, 2021

Meeting called to order 5PM.

**Minutes** approved.  Moved Debbie; Second Donna;

**Treasurer’s Report.** Dave Rib reported. April 7 collection $97. Gave $40 to Moose Lodge, $50 Balance $11,609.34. Payment pending for Leader digitization project of $8600.

**Sgt. Weinberg of Sheriff’s Office**. By Detective Pangburn from local station. No stats. Working in Morongo Basin.

**County Fire.** Deputy Chief Gordon. Burns will be suspended in next couple of weeks. Had 3 vegetation fires. One set and being investigated. Cal Fire is now staffed.

**Red Cross**. By Erin Fox. Most who work with Red Cross are volunteers. Do much of their work virtually, using Zoom or Facetime. LVHS is primary shelter – showers, ADA compliant, large gyms. Described the process. Meals, accommodations, mental health assistance. Described the contents of the trailer out at the fire station on the east end. How is Red Cross requested? An agency or emergency manager calls them. They partner local organizations, or faith-based orgs. Try to coordinate with what is already in place in local community. If trying to create an emergency plan, start small and then grow. Participate in CERT and/or Red Cross. Become a volunteer. Other locations can become evacuation point or distribution if needed. UDM point: Unsolicited donations management. People bring lots and lots of stuff and it can become unmanageable. Test smoke alarms. Be sure you have two ways out. Know who does what, like get the pets out. Are people trained for the hazards

**Jason Hansen**. COAD – a group of people that have organizations. They get called to deploy in disasters. Work with Sheriff, Red Cross, United Way and a bunch of others. 167 volunteers right now need more. Will train people for jobs needed.

**Congressman Jay Obernolte, by Shannon.** SBA accepting applications for restaurant revitalization funds. Current infrastructure package -- a very small portion of it is for actual infrastructure. Congressman thinks not a good use of funds. Please ask for whatever assistance needed with federal agencies.

**Senator Grove.** (Reprinted here)

All of Senator Grove’s bills that have been heard in committee thus far have been moved forward with unanimous approval. There is still a long road ahead but having bipartisan support on these bills is great news. There have been some major attacks on the oil industry of late. SB 467 by Senator Wiener, which would have banned new oil production and increased our dependency on foreign oil failed to pass in committee. As Senator Grove pointed out in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee hearing, that much more destructive bill, SB 467 (which failed), was paving the way for the Senate to pass SB 419 which would require contractors for work on oil and gas well facilities (excluding drilling) to be union contractors paid prevailing wages. This would have very significant impacts on the oil industry. In addition to these two bills, the Governor announced on April 23 that he will phase out fracking in California by 2024. Over the last 30 years the demand for oil and gas in California has only been reduced by a miniscule amount. To make up for the loss in local production, the Governor’s decision will force California to rely on imported oil from countries which have abysmal human rights and environmental records. To Senator Grove, this is completely irresponsible.

Please highlight that we are still open and available to assist on any problems with state agencies or to accept community input on various bills which the Senator will be voting on. Community members can contact our office at (760) 228-3136.

**Third District Supervisor Rowe.** Submitted.

COVID-19 UPDATE:

* The county continues to see declines in the amount of new daily cases and positivity rate. Currently, the positivity rate stands at 1.71% and the new daily case rate per 100,000 residents is 2.93.
* The county is in the Orange Tier, and to move into the Yellow Tier the county must have a positivity rate under 2% (We meet this criteria) and a new daily case rate per 100,000 residents under 2 (We don’t meet this criteria) for a period of two weeks.
* With the demand for testing declining drastically, the county is converting several of its testing sites into vaccination centers. County residents who would like to receive a vaccine are encouraged to schedule appointments online at SBCovid19.com, but walk-ups at any of our county-run vaccination sites will be accepted as well.
* Any residents aged 16 years or older are eligible to be vaccinated.
* To date, over 1,200,000 residents have received at least one does of a vaccine, and just over half a million are fully vaccinated.

EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:

* The county went live with its Emergency Rental Assistance Program on April 12. This program is designed to help tenants and landlords affected by the COVID-19 pandemic pay for rental and utility assistance.
* To find out if you’re eligible please visit SbcRentRelief.org or call the 211 system
* Applications will be accepted until December 31, 2021.

ILLEGAL CANNABIS CULTIVATION UPDATE:

* The county has established an internal working group with staff from multiple departments to develop a strategy for reducing the number of illegal grow sites.
* The group will be presenting its proposals to the Board of Supervisors in the coming days
* In addition, Supervisor Rowe has made a request for the FY 2021-22 county budget to significantly increase funding for the Sheriff’s Department as it relates to illegal cultivation enforcement
* She is also asking for funding to hire additional Code Enforcement officers to address this problem as well as issues related to Short-Term Rentals and snowplay in the mountains.

Chuck Bell asked that everyone subscribe to the LV Leader, which is improving its local coverage, including a recent article showing our support of Homestead Comm. Council’s letter regarding changing marijuana violations back to a felony, as is the case in every other state. Theft of water is a felony, like theft of electricity. Much work being done on various fronts to get the city-dwelling agency people to understand the scope of the problem – law enforcement, code enforcement, MWA, and more. Our community is complicit – selling them stuff, doing grading for them, selling them water out of our ground, removing brush for them.

**Peter Livingston for LVUSD.** Friday May 28 LVHS graduation. County Ed. Superintendent will be keynote speaker. May 25 and then June 15 will be doing vaccinations for anyone 12 and over. Open to the public. April 19 started in-person instruction five days per week. 893 students right now. Only district in the county that is growing – b ut state not paying for it. Next board meeting Thursday May 13. Lawsuit against governor moving forward to regain lost funding based on students being served. Plan is to reopen fully next year. Almost 90% back fulltime.

Meeting adjourned 6:26

