LUCERNE VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

June 2, 2021

Meeting called to order 5PM.

**Minutes** approved.  Moved Dave Rib; Second Debbie Schultz. Approved.

**Treasurer’s Report.** Dave Rib reported. May 5 collection $74. Gave $100 to Ground Truth Project. Balance $2,680.90.

**Sgt. Weinberg of Sheriff’s Office**. Receiving emails and calls asking if we should form a local militia to handle the marijuana growers. Must not do that and end up in jail with them. Question about how much water the growers are using from the wells. Also an incident during which a resident was chased and shot at by some of the growers. Much discussion about what the sheriff’s deputies can and cannot do. Not very satisfying situation.

**Sgt. Denkers of CHP.** Stats re collisions, citations issued, DUI’s. Re marijuana: Planning to hit our area hard to stop vehicles for whatever reasons are legal. They will bring out the commercial guys with the big rigs and scales.

**Supervisor Rowe, by Mark Lundquist.** Reported on extra money and new procedures against the marijuana growers to try to deal with the problem. Asked Code Enforcement to put something together: they are working on beefing up efforts to control marijuana growing.

Mark read a press release he received during the meeting: *With the assistance of the Sheriff’s Dept, Land Use Services, and County Counsel, the CEO’s office is spearheading a project to beef up the County’s response to the explosion of cannabis grows.  Among the things we are working on as a priority:*

* *Increased staffing for Sheriff’s Department and Code Enforcement*
* *Updating the County’s current ordinance prohibiting commercial cannabis activities.  We hope the update will include*
  1. *Greatly increased fines for violations of the ordinance (for both administrative and court citations)*
  2. *Increased civil penalties for continued non-compliance*
  3. *Abatement of materials and equipment associated with grows*
* *Updating our technology to identify grows quicker and manage the casework to provide better outcomes*
* *Establishing an ongoing workgroup of stakeholders to exchange information and woodshed potential solutions to issues as they arise (Waterboards, CDF&W, utility providers, County agencies)*
* *Considering a new ordinance to better regulate industrial hemp farming operations*

**Assemblyman Smith, by Dillon Lesovsky.** Working on putting teeth back into Prop 64, to make marijuana violations into a felony again. Too many Democrats in legislature to get much done. One angle is environmental damage done by illegal drugs. Trying to help County with fixed assets to fight marijuana problem. Trying to build a coalition with other So Cal politicians and law enforcement, across party lines. Legislature moving to defund some aspects of police and criminal justice, the opposite of what we need done.

**Congressman Jay Obernolte, by Shannon**  Working on marijuana issue on a federal level. Got a judge to rule against releasing sexual predators in desert communities.

**Senator Grove by Dominick Heiden.**  State will no longer allow gun shows at State fairgrounds so as to avoid profiting from mass shootings, but cannot provide any data to show correlation. Fighting a proposed tax on business based on the assumption that anyone with the virus caught it at work. Very difficult to fight the Leftist bias. Must be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves in dealing with issues to try to get anything constructive done.

**SB County Fire. Dan Munsey.** Introduced Fire Marshal Mike Horton to talk about biggest challenges in our district. One is arson, the other fireworks. Have technology to help with this .

**Tom Strong:** Use Fireworks Reporter app. Has a QR code so a person can report illegal fireworks anonymously and safely. Described other ways to report things, like vacant buildings, with GPS codes, addresses, etc., which contribute to their maps showing hot spots where there are lots of violations. Work with Sheriff, code enforcement. 760 995 8190 to report vacant buildings.

**Mike Headley**. Talked about some of the arson going on around here. Arson fires are mapped which helps to get the perpetrator and get him arrested. Fireworks interdiction. Have made arrests resulting in stiff fines. Since collecting data, the arrest and conviction rate is through the roof.

Introduced their dog who is trained to sniff for accelerants, bombs, etc. Highly trained, beautiful black lab.

Chuck Bell: Tomorrow and Monday will be in meetings with MWA and others re the drought, other water issues. The drought makes illegal water usage a higher priority.

**Peter Livingston, LVUSD** State is not funding school districts that are growing in order to fund the failing districts in the s---hole cities. (Recall Gavin Newsom!) Will add 8 classrooms, a transportation office, expanding parents’ drop-off area, replacing a couple of school buses, upgrading technology. Funded by relationship with charter schools. 90% of kids back at school. Question about Critical Race Theory being required by the state. Answer: no, our Board still approves the curriculum, and CRT is not approved.

Meeting adjourned 7:10