LUCERNE VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

September 2, 2020

Meeting called to order 5PM – LV Moose Lodge – outside meeting.

**Minutes** approved.  Moved Soria.  Second Schultz. Attendance taken.

**Treasurer’s Report.**Dave Rib is out of town visiting family. August collection was just from Mitsubishi and Chuck Bell: $40 total, which was donated to the Moose Lodge. Balance is still $5227.34.

**Peter Livingston for LVUSD** Reopened schools Aug. 20. One of the first in state and county to open under the waiver allowing hybrid attendance for elementary school only. Middle/high school students might return after Labor Day. We qualify under Newsom’s qualifying stats to fully reopen. Trying to get County to consider LV separately from whole county. Board has authorized Livingston to consider all legal actions to get schools fully reopened. Have started new “pathways”: law enforcement, nursing, business. School’s funding is being withheld because a union bill passed that changed the formula where $ doesn’t follow the students any more in an effort to end charter schools.

**Dawn Rowe, Supervisor.** Introduced law enforcement present. Sheriff John McMahon. Andy Wingert from Code Enforcement. Officer Munson of CHP. Reported on internal meeting to come up with some actions they will present.

**Sheriff McMahon.** 700 illegal grows total in County. In the last couple of weeks acted on 17 search warrants, of which 9 were in LV. This is the result of legalizing recreational marijuana. The penalty is a misdemeanor, which means nothing. The only way they can keep them in jail is if they catch them using electricity illegally valuing more than $950, making if a felony. Will run a program for 90 days using resources from multiple departments and stations. Our special circumstance is the number of water trucks that aren’t registered with drivers who aren’t licensed. CHP will bring their commercial unit to focus on these trucks. LVEDA provided a list of roads to focus on. Code enforcement will work with property owners.

**Lucerne Valley Marijuana Grows and Associated Impacts.** County Supervisor Dawn Rowe presented discussions and results of a webinar meeting with the Sheriff’s Dept. and its Marijuana Task Force, CHP, Code “Enforcement”, County Dept. of Agriculture, Mojave Water Agency, Planning Dept., etc. Chuck Bell presented to them a list of questions/issues to which they responded.

Mike Mumford of CHP reported results of efforts to control water trucks. Impounded 7 vehicles since Monday. Drivers with multiple suspensions. They will stop for no registration or license plate and for weight on the vehicle.

Dawn reviewed Chuck Bell’s list of questions. To date 47 grows have been shut down in LV. DEA doesn’t involve themselves in states where recreational marijuana is legal. Looking into grant possibilities for disadvantaged communities. MWA is not up to speed on cannabis cultivation.

**Code Enforcement**. Works with law enforcement but can also act on citizen complaints, so please use the app to report what we see. Sheriff is going to increase presence five fold. CE will work on the team with them. CE ultimately can bring civil prosecution which can result in forfeiture of property. However, that doesn’t represent much threat since many of these properties were bought at tax auction and are disposable. Will get the fire department involved to address issue of plants being burned after harvest.

Is there any way to get a progress report on complaints when it appears nothing is being done? Call CE with complaint number to get the report of what’s been done.

What about wells being drilled – is there any way to check whether they were permitted? Call or report to CE who will turn it over to Dept. of Environmental Health. Chuck said they are going to give us a list of permitted wells so we can compare and find the illegal ones. Need to do a drive-around with DHS and CE so they see firsthand what’s happening.

DEA will get involved if they can prove organized crime or the cartels. It takes time to put it all together and figure out the lines of organization, but it can be done.

Sgt. Siebert announced his retirement and introduced replacement. Dana Weinberg introduced himself and promised to call this Lucerne VALLEY.

Meeting adjourned 6:30