LUCERNE VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

October 4, 2021

Meeting called to order 5PM.

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

**Treasurer’s Report.** Dave Rib reported. Collection Sept 8 was $141. Gave $30 to Moose Lodge. Balance $2876.90.

**Sgt. Weinberg of Sheriff’s Office.** Sergeant gave some stats on recent raids on growers. Netted $119505. Much Q&A from residents. Use of drones and all of the complications involved in doing that. Challenges involved in approaching these places, some of which are armed, dangerous, and occupy the high ground and thus the advantage. Need to band together with other assemblymen and/or counties for greater impact.

**Sgt. Mumford for CHP, by Chuck Bell.** (From Mumford email to Chuck) CHP able to give the family of the four girls (3 killed, 1 severely injured by hit and run vehicle) some additional information and pictures of the suspect. I’m sure the photos will circulate in Lucerne Valley an dbeyond and hopefully we can get someone to recognize him in the area. Since last LVEDA, 4 vehicles impounded/stored and 10 citations issued for the Lucerne Valley area. Sounds like sheriff’s Operation Hammer Strike is doing well in LV.

**Assemblyman Smith, by Miriam Munoz** Bad Bills. Prohibit use of rubber bullets and pepper gas in law enforcement. 10% tax on handguns, rifles, ammo. Not signed yet. Smith got first bill passed and signed. One on governor’s desk as yet unsigned is 1138 which imposes $30,000 fine on unlicensed marijuana grows.

**Congressman Jay Obernolte, by Shannon.** Obernolte tried to get money for our areas to fight marijuana into the giant spending bill. HR 3533 Federal Career Opportunities Act. To address our cyber weakness esp. in cyber security. Creates federal jobs specific to that area.

**Steve Reyes for Supervisor Rowe** (talking points submitted):

* The county’s Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs, Brad Jensen, has been doing outreach to other counties to join in a working group to discuss potential legislation that can be introduced next year in Sacramento. There are a number of legislative ideas that are being floated. Brad has also been in contact with CSAC and they are very interested in supporting a legislative agenda to address illegal cannabis.
* A hearing date hasn’t been set for the abatement ordinance.   The supervisors office hasn’t seen a draft of the ordinance yet and Staff asked for more time to finalize the ordinance\
* Chairman Hagman has been in ongoing discussions about this with the California Military Department. We’re hoping they commit resources sooner than later
* Code Enforcement New Ordinance Extraction Period 8/20 - 9/30          Total Open Cases 591
* NOCs Completed – 53 (Notice of Complaints)
* NOVs Completed – 140 (Notice of Violations)
* Citations Issued – 41
* Cases Referred to MET 72

More than $50,000 in administrative fines have been issued to property owners

Follow up from Steve Reyes on Wednesday, 10/6:

Upon our request - Here is the response our Supervisor’s office received from Lt. Bracco regarding seized cash:  (We of course want it used for more busts). (Chuck Bell)*“All money seizures go through my Asset Forfeiture Team. Depending on how the investigation goes determines if it is a state money seizure case or federal money seizure case. It usually takes about 2-years from the date of seizure before the county is allowed to take over the money—a lot of red tape and paperwork with it. The money has restrictions on how it can be used when it comes back to the county. It usually goes to general fund and can’t be used to fund overtime. It can be used to purchase equipment and stuff our teams need. It also depends on the filing of how it comes back to the county too. Some filings go to the general fund, other come straight back to the department. It’s all case specific and if criteria are met. I know this is convoluted but hope it helps.”*

**Peter Livingston, LVUSD.** Great start to the school year. Virus having minimal impact. Enrollment at 830. Lots of work being done on facilities. Making a plan to start paying off loans. 5 year plan to be debt free. Newsom dropped a bomb last Friday by announcing mandatory vaccination for students and staff of all schools. Did not consult any schools we know of. Governor does not have authority to mandate vaccination. Must be legislated. Won’t take effect until FDA gives full approval for this age group. School board is working on a position statement that they will take up in next board meeting. Many questions about who really has legal authority to be mandating these things. Right to informed consent being ignored. Parents have no say. Policies discriminate against students and staff who have recovered from the virus, because they have stronger immunity. School Board meeting on Thursday, Oct. 14, 5:30PM at the district office. Public input welcome. School Board statement attached.

**Jessica Risler.** Held a vigil outside the CHP office in behalf of the four girls, 3 killed, one terribly injured. CHP finally announced the name of the 18 year old who was driving his dad’s truck when he struck the girls. Trying to raise money for the families and to have a reward out for his arrest.

**Jason Hanson.** Put out questionnaire on various social media asking what people are concerned about in our community. 500 responses. Marijuana grows. Drug addicts and homeless. Speeding and passing over double yellow line. Out of towners running stop signs. Trash dumping all over the desert. Widening of Highway 18. Reckless water trucks. Progress in getting more jobs and businesses.

**Chelsea La Grange**. Museum update. Still have LV history books available. Museum will be open the night of the Roadrunners’ Trick or Treat with a haunted house.

Pam Hartwick. Christmas backpacks for kids. Watch Facebook for details.

Chuck Bell. Town cleanup, Adopt-a-Highway, idea to do it in November with some members of every community organization. Working with Roadrunners.

Johnson Valley Octoberfest Oct. 9. 30 tickets left. Can be bought at the door.

Brief fire report from ???? Chuck: we are trying to get hold of Division Chief Blaze about burned out buildings since County Fire Marshall said we could do that and fire dept. would take out 5 or 6 of them. Need volunteers for hazardous waste collection. They have to be trained how to handle the stuff, esp. the liquids.

Adjourned 6:40.