LUCERNE VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

March 7, 2022

Meeting called to order 5PM.    **Minutes** approved.   Dave Rib moved,  Donna second to approve minutes.

**Treasurer’s Report.** Collection Feb 7:  $102.   Gave $20 to Moose Lodge.  Balance $2983.93.

**Sheriff’s report**. Sergeant Weinberg for Sheriff’s office gave a short summary of the status of the battle against marijuana grows.  Call in with information, giving GPS or cross streets for location.  New detective assigned to LV station: Chris Dekeryl.  Reviewed the OAN (Owner Applied Number) system, which identifies your property with your unique number stamped on.  Free of charge.  Makes it easier for sheriff to find stolen items.  Can stamp steel, plastic, etc.

**Congressman Jay Obernolte, by Hayden Bartz**, BLM putting up some wind testing towers on north side of JV for atmospheric testing.  Obernolte’s office was caught unawares and are now working on it. HR6434 to protect heritage of Japanese Americans related to WW II internment.  Inflation and the effect on regular working people.  Must focus on balancing the budget and getting country back on track.  Ukraine – unprovoked invasion violating Ukrainians’ right to self-determination.  Full force of sanctions on Russia.  Free us of socialized medicine (code for Medicare and Medicaid).

**Assemblyman Smith, by Miriam Munoz.** Bills submitted**:** AB2421 enables local enforcement to prosecute water theft or pollution related to illegal cannabis cultivation.  AB1599 repeals Proposition 47 to bring down minimum $ for felonies.  AB 1138 talks about aiding and abetting marijuana grows but is very vague.  Need the bill clarified, or know what the interpretation of it will be. AB1993 would force California employers to be responsible for vaccination programs and require vaccine passports from any employees and/or vendors.

**Senator Grove, by Dominic Heiden.**  The bad: bills requiring vaccines, taking parents’ rights to their children.  Some good: Legislation to prohibit the importing of crude oil into CA from nations that are abusing human rights. Increase the gross weights of fuel trucks to help supply chains.  Tax credits to businesses that provide opportunities for homeless youth.  Make human trafficking a violent crime.  Senator Grove is still our senator until December.

**Steve Reyes for Supervisor Dawn Rowe.**  Chemicals at Grow Sites The sheriff's department will contact HAZ MAT if they encounter hazardous chemicals at MET illegal grow operations.  If there are hazardous chemicals the sheriff's department will conduct any criminal investigation related to those illegal chemicals. Soil testing is not done by the County.  According to State Fish and Wildlife it is the responsibility of the property owner to remediate the land.  Addressing the chemicals is part of the cleanup we and Fish and Wildlife require of landowners during the remediation process through administrative and civil mediation.

**Cannabis Cultivation update from Code Enforcement (County wide).**

Total Open Cases: 801.  Notice of Complaints Completed: 221.  Notice of Violations: 583.  Citations Issued: 280.  Citation Amount Total: $560,300.

**Abatement Update** Some illegal grow sites are self-abating.  Code Enforcement abated their first location in Lucerne Valley under the new County ordinance.

**LVUSD, by Chuck.** LCAP coming up on April agenda, where small districts canvas the opinions of the stakeholders in the district to set priorities.

**County Fire** by Rob Edie.  (Covering for Capt. Taylor who is out today).  Any questions?  (Had to leave suddenly on a call).

Nothing new on Stagecoach Solar on state lands.  May need the help of our state reps. in dealing with it.  No news re: the high caliber, long range rifle range that has been operating off and on in northwest LV.  Currently in violation.   It would need County and BLM permits.  No LVEDA opinion on it yet.

County household hazardous waste coming on March 19, 9-12. Behind fire station.  Including electronics and full range of what the County staff (who will be there for this one) can collect.

Much discussion about what to do about the LV Leader.  Possible to grow a local paper out of the market ad paper? Conceptually, yes.  Realistically, questionable.

Water issues.  New judge will ramp (reduce) our water rights (for adjudicated parties) down 5% every year whether we use the water or not.  Big Bear wastewater will be redirected into Big Bear Lake – reducing inflow to our groundwater basin.  Complex matter.  We as a community could end up in real water trouble.

Announcements.  Mega swapmeet May 14 by Chamber of Commerce.

Adjourned 6:20.