LUCERNE VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

February 7, 2022

Meeting called to order 5PM.

**Minutes** approved.  Chuck Bell moved, Dave Rib second to approve minutes.

**Treasurer’s Report.** Collection Jan. 3 was $113.00 and gave $20 to Moose Lodge. Paid $40.23 for Jasberg plaque. Balance $2901.93.

**Congressman Jay Obernolte, by Sonia Miranda:** Congressman Obernolte has been successful in getting several bills passed in his first year in Congress, one of which was included in a larger bill on Veterans’ Affairs. He is working on getting the federal Drug Enforcement Agency involved in the fight against the flood of marijuana growers in California, some of which are suspected of being operations by the Mexican cartels.

**Assemblyman Smith, by Miriam Munoz.**  Re AB1725, Smith is working on an amendment to return to the status of a felony illegal cannabis cultivation activities. It’s been assigned to a committee and sent to the floor by the end of the month, hopefully. Working with the county on penalties against illegal grow that are using harmful pesticides that harm the water table. AB 1400 and ACA11 would have created a single payer government run healthcare system for all Californians regardless of immigration status.AB1400 died on the floor but ACA11 is still in committee. Adds $163 billion in new taxes for small businesses and new income taxes for residents. The State Atty, Gen. hasn’t yet determined what AB 1138’s intent was in “aiding and abetting” illegal marijuana grows.

**Senator Grove, by Dominic Heiden.**  The bad news: SB866 allows minors to receive vaccine without parental consent. SB871 makes the vaccine mandatory for schools with no religious exemption. The Dept. of Public Health would decide on the mix of vaccines to be given to school children and exemption status. Legislation re: dumping sexual violent predators in our County, etc. We are currently redistricted out of Sen. Grove’s district, which includes the Central Valley, and connected to the Coachella Valley with another conservative senator. The change will take place in the next two years. No election for our state senator until 2024, so we will have a temporary senator. The State and County are getting help from Dept. of Fish and Wildlife on the cannabis issue but Mitsubishi, for example, is getting nowhere with them re: Joshua tree issues as they negotiate quarry permits and other things.

**Steve Reyes for Supervisor Dawn Rowe.**  Code Enforcement illegal marijuana cultivation statistics:

Total Open Cases: 862; Notice of Complaint: 209; Notice of Violation: 458; Citations Issued: 201; Citation Amount Total: $390,500. 10 Calif. Fish and Wildlife officers and 2 lieutenants working with Sheriff Depts. in our and local counties re: illegal grows/environmental impacts – finding many felonies.

Marijuana Grow Legislation: Brad Jenson, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs had no update as of yet.

Redistricting:  Over the next year Dawn will start transition areas of Lake Arrowhead, Needles, Big River area, Yermo, Dagget, and Newberry Springs. We will remain in her District. Chuck: and we remain in Cong. Obernolte’s and Assemb. Smith’s as well – thanks to good work by Jim Harvey as well as LVEDA.

**CHP by Mike Mumford, via Chuck Bell.** CHP is working on traffic issues stemming from the marijuana growers’ vehicles. Possibility (remote?) of a dedicated CHP officer for our area.

**LVUSD, by Chelsea LaGrange.** Enrollment is up to 981. Next school board meeting will have a presentation on how the district will pay off all outstanding loans. Working on upgrading district signs.

**Museum Ass’n by Chelsea LaGrange.** Fundraiser to be held at the market on Feb. 13, selling neat stuff.

**County Fire by Dan Munsey, County Fire Chief!**  Dan reviewed some of the many challenges County Fire is dealing with. Hope to rebuild the old, old fire station here in LV, among others, and replace older fire trucks around the county. The severe inflation and supply chain issues are making it hard to accomplish and afford these projects – can’t get engine parts, etc. – have to fabricate their own when can. New fire truck costs over $800,000 and takes 3 years to get one in service.. The virus has had a major impact on fire personnel, 65 out now, forcing those able to work into mandatory overtime. Complicating this is the hospitals short staffing due to their policy of firing unvaxxed staff. Due to exposure of firefighters to carcinogens, they have a higher instance of staff retiring to deal with cancer, so County is working on cancer prevention. Hiring new people is next to impossible due to labor shortage. Focusing on fire prevention at the community level, using grants and cooperation with utilities like SCE and SWG. The vast amount of land in SB County that is owned by the feds (BLM and Forestry) presents its own challenge by removing the land from potential revenue producing usage, and requiring additional long-distance coverage by both fire and sheriff with little or no compensation. The Dept. has 3 brush/tree thinning crews that are paid by sources other than our taxes.

Capt. Mike Taylor, stationed here in LV, spoke of burn permits, how to get them, and the difference between County Fire and Cal Fire, a big issue here in our divided valley. Working with Code Enforcement to demolish structures that are declared to be a public nuisance and then can be demolished and removed.

Stagecoach Solar (up in the north valley area) – no new updates

Hi Powered rifle range located somewhere north of the Cove is trying to get a permit – current activity illegal..

Town cleanup operated by County Code Enforcement was held on Saturday, Feb. 5. All of the bins and trailers they brought were filled with trash, tires, and electronics. Mitsubishi reiterated that they will receive and burn tires from town cleanups at no charge.

Announcements. Household Hazardous Waste collection behind the Fire Dept. will be held on March 19 and will be able to receive the full list of items since the County will be present.

LV Chamber of Commerce, by Donna Soria: plans to have our July 4 parade are on track, the first time in 3 years. Also there is an Honorary Mayor race getting set up. The Chamber office will begin to have open hours again.

Adjourned 6:20.