MINUTES

LUCERNE VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (LVEDA)

TUESDAY, January 8, 2019 -- 5PM -- SENIOR CENTER

Meeting called to order 5PM

**Minutes approved**. Moved Rib; second Schultz.

Introductions.

Sheriff's report: Lonnie Siebert is back after a year's absence. Stats not ready yet. Has had to provide security for marijuana festivals. LV: 6038 calls, 587 reports for 11 months. Goal is to have 8 deputies out here. 6 deputies at present. 2 at any given time. Outdoor marijuana grows still illegal, so call if you know of any.

**Treasurer's report.** No collection in December. Balance $4337.24. Mitsubishi Cement paid food bill for Christmas goodies from LV Market. LVEDA wrote check for $580.00 for publication of LV book – as approved previously.

**Dakota Higgins for Congressman Cook**. Don’t know committee assignments yet. Partial gov't shutdown: USFS and BLM down. Hard to keep track of what is and isn't funded. Federal employees receive back pay. King of the Hammers race next month. Some natural resources legislation will be tougher to pass due to new Democratic majority.

**Shannon Dunkle for Assemblyman Obernolte.** Probably won't introduce as many bills this year. Reviewed status of some of last year's bills. Howard Jarvis Tax. Assn rated Obernolte high at 100%. Q: Status of meeting with State Lands Commission? Seems stalled out. Just want a conference call. Need exemption for Tier 4 engines for well drillers in “Disadvantaged Communities”. She will be available for assistance/contact 2-5PM, February 5 at Senior Center.

**Mark Lundquist, Third District**. New supervisor appointed was Dawn Rowe. RECE 4.10 at the top of the list given to her as issue of concern for desert areas. Another issue is unregulated, proliferating Air BnB's all over the Joshua Tree, Yucca Valley, Morongo Basin. What is the story of the MAC? Members have to go through application process again. Possibility that any MAC resolutions will have to be brought up before the Board of Supervisors, which would make being on the MAC board more meaningful.

**MWA by Jim Ventura.** Reviewed some of the activities of MWA outside of taking taxes, e.g. storing water for at least three years, scheduling seminars and education sessions (ABC's of Water), etc. Recharge basin in LV out by Camp Rock Rd. not begun yet. 200 acre feet/year recharge is current goal.

**School district.** No one to report

**Progress on LV book, by Bill Lembright**: Book is on last proof and almost ready for printing. LVEDA just wrote a check for initial print run of 20 books.

Project to digitize LV Leaders updated by Millie Rader. Waiting on the company that owns the Daily Press giving permission to digitize the paper.

Roger Peterson on the MAC. Will probably have vacancies, so please apply if interested.

John Miller on industrial hemp. Farm Bill legalized industrial hemp, which is cannabis but has less THC. That should raise land values exponentially, and county and law enforcement can’t do anything except to set up regulations and enforce them. Hard to tell hemp and marijuana apart. Can regulate at MWA or County Ag Commissioner office. Need to put requirements in place, like requiring agricultural land and water rights. Requires less water than alfalfa and pistachios. Value is in medicinal qualities of CBG. LV is a perfect area for growing hemp. However, it is unfriendly to neighborhoods due to strong odor and unsightly plants. Could be a threat to the livability of LV depending on where farmed.

Steve Mills on Policy 4.10 and Supervisors' hearing on January 29. Better chance at fair treatment of the issue now with new Supervisor Rowe. Need massive turnout at the meeting to let supervisors know that residents still engaged in the issue. Show of hands indicate about 10 or 12 people intend to go to the hearing. About 7,000 acres of solar along Hwy 247 in application stages.

Household Hazardous waste Saturday, Jan 12. County will do town cleanup at the same time at the high school.

Meeting adjourned. 6:55.