

MINUTES
LUCERNE VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (LVEDA)
Monday, July 31, 2023 – 5:00 PM – Moose Lodge

Meeting called to order at 5 PM at Moose Lodge. Flag salute. Dave passed the hat as people walked in.

Minutes approved. Moved by Debbie, Seconded by Frank

Panel consisting of Assemblyman Tom Lackey, Supervisor Dawn Rowe, Sheriff Dicus, and David Jorgensen of Code Enforcement.

Assemblyman Lackey: Introduced himself w/ personal history. Cost of living crazy in CA, created by legislature. Rising costs at alarming rate.

- CalFire and hazard zones very unfair and damaging to homeowners. Insurance co. are pulling out. FAIR plan has less competition.
- List of cannabis grows better but not good enough. Tried to authorize Prop 64 money for enforcement but held up by Senate
- Western Joshua Tree Preservation Act. Dodged a bullet to label it endangered, but only temporary. Still a big push to do so. AB122 Western Joshua Tree conservation Act is a “compromise”. Exemptions allowed for solar companies and others.

Supervisor Dawn Rowe:

- Short term vacation rentals. A dilemma – private property rights vs. infringement on people’s rights. Noise/parking/trash/etc. Public meetings scheduled.
- Camp Rock and Herrod Rds and large truck traffic. Signs about to go up “No commercial trucks over 5000 lbs”
- Portable classrooms. Schools selling them but not telling people that it’s difficult to get them permitted, so they are getting dumped in our desert.
- Supervisors passed resolution that no violent sex offenders should be placed in our communities
- Expressed appreciation on how good Assemb. Lackey is working with the County.

Fire Chief Dan Munsey:

- Fire Hazard Safety Zones. LV’s input made a difference. Our County had the most changes in the State - from Very High to High – and got our Moderate back. Dan was called out in a board meeting because of LV’s input.
- Local Responsibility Area (LRA) (Feds are FRA; State is SRA) If you can build on the property, it’s LRA, but SRA pushes overlaps. There is a hold on LRA assessment at this time due to legislation pending that might improve the process.

Sheriff Dicus

- Public Safety committee in legislature is a pain. Leftist agenda prevails there – favors criminals..
- Fentanyl, human trafficking – above committee trying to block out these issues. Don’t want felonies in CA
- Illicit marijuana markets are the lead markets over legal. County had 5 marijuana teams – not five – but a lot less to deal with. Provided stats.
- Deputies being shot at – some with ghost guns – 3D printed, etc.. Definite increase over past years.

- Operation Consequences in County communities – to convince the governor/state that there are consequences.
- Hiring new deputies, 7 to the desert. Expanding facilities in Victor Valley to make life easier up here.
- Do our own social safety net regardless of lack of support from state.
- State trying to make issuance of CCWs tougher.

David Jorgensen of County code Enforcement.

- In charge of Cannabis Enforcement Team. Getting cooperation and help from County BOS, Sheriff Dicus, EHS, state agencies, water boards, fire departments
- Stats on warrants, citations – very effective. 3.800 cannabis inspections past 2 years. 1.800 citations. Closed 1300 cases.
- Abatement ordinance allows Code Enf. to act faster on clean-up of busted grows.
- LV is 20-25% of their work. Report burned out buildings to Code Enf.
- Trying to use funding for aerial imaging
- Working with DA to prosecute cases. Cooperation only started about 1 ½ years ago.
- Industrial hemp changed – now they are registering those authorized to grow it. Now there is a framework for those who want to be permitted to grow hemp legally. Still can be used as ‘cover’ for growing marijuana. County now has a device to detect THC levels in the field.
- Community cleanup events being scheduled in various communities – including ours done on 8/22.
- Vendor enforcement – clarifying objectives. Preparers of food must have EHS permit.
- Work release teams – using inmate teams
- Open House events. This Wednesday at Gov’t Center in Hesperia (4-6PM) August 30 in Joshua Tree.
- Curtis Stone is supervisor for this area

CHP by Capt. Johnson.

Trying to do things to deal with negatives to quality of life. Jan. to June - Crashes down 34% in our area. Citations up 82% in VV. Will enforce truck limits on Camprock/Harrold/Northside Roads when County gets signs up.

Congressman Obernolte by Hayden

- HR1360. CEO of TicToc re protection from malicious actors. American Cyber Security Act to alert people to the threats.
- FY2024 National Defense Authorization Act. Our district has one of highest concentrations of bases in the country. 5.2% pay increase for service members. Obernolte wants these bases well-funded. Amendment to bill guarantees availability of area for Hammers race.
- HR4278 VA Accountability Act. Allows for speedy actions against bad employees

LVUSD by Peter Livingston.

Updates. Enrollment 10% growth this year. From 669 eight years ago to over 1100 , maybe 1200 this year. Operating through several charter schools. 7 new classrooms to accommodate growth. Concerning: State threatening to shut down research from Stanford that goes against their narrative.

Threat on Temecula School District and Newsom fine of \$1.5 million over curriculum. Newsom trying to take control of local districts.

Don Bartz for Phelan Pinon Hills CSD

described issues they are running into, like ours.

- Permitting of wells by the county. Huge marijuana grow that had a well permitted by EHS
- Site busted but now abandoned, leaving trash and debris. Terrible living conditions for workers (trafficked?). Wells left open and easily contaminated.
- Foreign nationals have direct access to our local water supplies
- State law says there must be some level of CEQA

Chuck brought up the question about whether there is money for Severely Disadvantaged Community. How can we access that? LVEDA complimented the panel – federal/state/county reps. - for being so responsive and for their help in our community – and how much we need it under current circumstances..

Next meeting August 28.

Meeting adjourned @7:15