

## MINUTES

### LUCERNE VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (LVEDA)

**Monday, February 24, 2025 – 5:00 PM – Moose Lodge**

Meeting called to order at 5 PM at Moose Lodge. Flag salute.

Minutes approved. Moved by Debbie Schultz. Seconded Frank Francis.

**Treasurer report.** 1/27/25 Hat Collection = \$68 - \$20 to Moose = \$48 + \$8 Ins Refund = \$56 Deposit on 1/28/25. Balance of \$4,571.39

**Iris: Office of Assemblyman Lackey** report: Committees: Iris listed committees on which Lackey serves. AB38 Developmentally Disabled Minor. Referred to Public Safety. AB71 Ignition Interlock device. AB 97 Bobcat fire excludes settlement monies from tax liability. AB287. Vote center. AB 300 Fire Marshall must review and identify moderate and high fire risk every 5 years. AB525 Something to do with farmers and ranchers and terminals. Need help to get Caltrans to fix 247/247 intersection.

**Sheriff's Report** Sgt. Joe Necochea [jnecochea@sbcscd.org](mailto:jnecochea@sbcscd.org). 480 calls for service. 350 from dispatch center. 129 from deputies. 13 arrests for a total of 59 reports. 53 involved Fire Dept. Lieutenant who attended: Lethal force encounter – assaulted deputy with weapon. Kept roads open during event for the community.

**Code Enforcement:** Paul introduced Curtis who will again be our rep. as he was for 2 years. The current open caseload for Lucerne Valley is 297 – Last report January 2025 was 303. A decrease of 6 open cases through November to date. The reporting feature of our case management system is still in the development stages with the developer as the current priority is functionality for staff. As promised work on a better format to report significant case closures for LVEDA members and attendees is completed as attached February's meeting.

Prior accomplishment was the Mud House and for February 2025 the following two successful closures of cases will be highlighted- attached. I'll have copies to share with the attendees.

1. Lucerne Valley. I'll discuss the challenges with this case related to a deceased owner, incomplete probate, new owner and out continued enforcement to reach resolution. This property was a prior Cannabis Grow - Violations: Junk and trash, large piles of miscellaneous debris and scrap material, large pile of waste tires, 13 inoperative vehicles, electrical hazards, broken windows and door, and interior vandalized. Owners "throw" properties around to avoid abatement costs.
2. Lucerne Valley. Prior Cannabis Grow – Violations: Junk and Trash, large piles of miscellaneous debris and scrap material, 24-30 Occupied recreational vehicles, and 201 grow structures. \$90K cost but worked with owner to save tax \$. Out of abatement \$ til July. Still big one to clean up when get \$. No current active grows but still looking. Now indoor and harder to handle. Pleasure working with us.

Property of Interest to LVEDA: Rancho Lucerne. A Stop Work Order was issued related to the illegal set-down of a mobile home and grading violation. This case will be ongoing and update will only be provided when requested by LVEDA.

**CHP Todd Kovalez.** 2024 334 citations. 131 crashes, with 4 fatal crashes, down from previous years. 170 speeding – unlicensed drivers – lot of vehicle violations, etc. Commercial unit found 13 mechanical violations, oversize loads, putting 2 out of service. On the 17<sup>th</sup>, 10 vehicles inspected, 7 mechanical violations. One unpermitted oversized load put out of service. Staffing looking good with three officers in our area – 7 trainees for the VV station, eleven officers trying to transfer to VV station.

**THIRD DISTRICT.** **Steve Reyes** SB County holding office hours in Barstow every third Thursday for Veterans' Affairs, by Dept. Adult and Aging Services

**Animal Care/Control. George Harding.** Dept of Public Health. Animals are property, so they must be treated as such. Must post notice for 15 days before action can be taken. Complaint about a pack of dogs that attacked and slaughtered 7 sheep. Couldn't deal with the dogs until the 15 days passed. Current property owner financially responsible even though the dogs were not theirs. Two other packs attacked other animals in the area. One of the dogs that had attacked animals and got the taste for blood was put up for adoption a few days later. If officer doesn't witness a violation, citizen can become third party witness Call 800-4725609 if there's an issue. Angie Miller questioned Mr. Harding about what can be done in future incidents so there isn't a repeat of this disaster. New Online Incident Tracker app available on the website. Report strays, other animal issues on the app. Animals in/out is 77%. Chuck: looks like there are some statutes getting in the way of the reality people are having to live with. Steve/George will provide a list of County regs. that might need to be adjusted. We will ask our fed. reps. to do the same. Don't know if these are generations of old marijuana grow dogs. Multiple residents see packs passing through properties. Can get dog licenses on line.

**Congressman Jay Obernolte. Corrine Mora** (New representative). The Unhoused Disabled Veterans Act -- to be sure disability benefits not included in taxable income. Second Amendment Protection Act to be sure VA cannot strip vets of their gun rights. Raoul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act dealing with reckless fleeing a scene. Seven community coffees this week.

**County Fire.** North Desert Battalion Chief Travis Aguirre, Battalion Chief of Southern Desert. 110 calls. 89 were medical aids. 21 a mix of fires from structure to vegetation, traffic collisions. MCI drill in Joshua Tree, bringing together a large group of multi-agency cooperators. RAP Residential Assessment Program -- on website you can request the engine company to come to your residence and help you with ideas for better fire safety. Helped with LA fires. Complaint that there are no burn days yet. Need to get phone number back on the county burn permits.

**LVUSD.** Report by Peter Livingston. Comment on Rancho Lucerne: they are doing lots of work w/o permits. Rancho Lucerne needs to pay for the school district's necessary expansions. The costs must not be borne by the school district or the local population. Enrollment 1171 now, almost double what it was in recent years. Most districts have declining enrollment. Sports doing well. Competitive Equity allows large schools to play small schools and blow them out of the CIF playoffs. Lots of FFA animals on site being raised for the fair. Expanded CT programs. Building an entire new welding wing under Troy Van Bavel. Entire new restaurant setup. New teacher in auto shop. Cigar box guitar will be raffled off to support music program.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS: Angie Miller.** Honorary Mayor will be shortened by a month so final will be May. Rose Garrett, Irene Arballo, Jeremy Smith. Michelle Boren will help with a class "I Woke Up Dead this Morning. Now What?" A workshop at Humanity to help end of life planning. Adult softball tournament March 22.

Chuck: Patty will fill Dave Rib's spot on the Board. Working with Mojave Water Agency on some changes that they will inform us about soon.

Complaint that Cal Trans wants to put a bus stop on his property. Concerned about security and what strangers will do to his property. Might be part of Cal Trans trying to increase right of way. Part of paving project?

Adjourned 6:40