

MINUTES
LUCERNE VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (LVEDA)
Monday, Jan. 29, 2024 – 5:00 PM – Moose Lodge

Meeting called to order at 5 PM at Moose Lodge. Flag salute by Supervisor Dawn Rowe.

Treasurer Cynthia absent so didn't get report or ask for contributions – plus it was too crowded anyway. Chuck donated \$20 to the Lodge for use of the meeting room.

Minutes approved. Moved by Chelsea, seconded by Debbie.

THIRD DISTRICT. Dawn Rowe. SB1383 Food Waste bill. LV is exempt due to low population unless we are a commercial business – so the Market is directly affected with difficult to implement requirements. Re: Special Districts remodel of Community Center. Plans made. RFP's issued – might be done mid 2025. Gubler wants to use solar on his orchid farm and doesn't want the community to be alarmed. Property 80 acres with 4 greenhouses. 50 acres behind a berm for a solar farm that will be unobtrusive and return excess energy to LV, via community solar. It is not 'utility grade solar' that is prohibited in Lucerne Valley. Dawn mentioned BLM's "update on its solar policy" – difficult to get full info. on it via BLM's web site. Richard Selby brought up a question of the regulations from the perspective of an architect. He will work with Steve on his issues with County Land Use Services.

Re subject of Fire Protection District. Chief Dan Munsey in Wash. D.C. to get us more federal funds to fund all of the services provided to non-residents and the huge amount of federal lands serviced by our County. (Previous notes from Dan: We spend about \$13M responding to accidents, etc. on interstates and federal lands. Our County gets about \$1.9M from the Feds' 'Payment In Lieu of Taxes' – but none goes to Fire. Riverside County with much less federal land gets \$2.2M.).

COUNTY FIRE FP5 and upcoming vote. Measure W on the ballot. Scott Tuttle. If the ballot vote is "yes", they lose FP5 funding; If "no", they keep the current FP5 funding. No revenue comes from state funding, etc.(??) because it's a Special District. FP5 counts for 19% of Fire's total revenue. Directly pays for fire stations, paramedics, etc.. Revenue generated in the zones in which it was collected goes to those zones. Currently there would be no replacement revenue for FP5. If repealed, fire insurance rates could go up – rural fire stations could be vacated, etc.

Q: Upcoming vote to modify Prop. 13. "Could increase our property tax". Does it affect this? No, because no property tax revenue goes directly to fire(???). Per Dawn: the original creation of FP5 was done by protest vote, which was inappropriate for a tax increase. Confusing and somewhat underhanded method for a tax increase – occurred years ago under a different administration.

Q. Information in the mail about this? Go to www.SBCfire.org and search for FP5 and all information will be there. What happens if FP5 fails? Tough decisions will have to be made, re # of staff on an engine, closing some stations, what happens to paramedics, etc. The funding from FP5 enabled them to put a third person on our equipment.

Representative of Firefighters' union: They don't like the confusing language of the ballot measure of FP5 which was not written by the County – but the proponent which got it on the ballot. The union says vote 'No on W', which allows Fire District to keep the FP5 funding and the current level of service. 'Do not repeal FP5 because it will cripple the current level of service'. Vote of Yes repeals funding and cripples Fire District.

Congressman Obernolte by Hayden Barth. DC staff has been alerted and will provide information on the BLM solar policy update. Chuck asked him to send us links with maps, etc. because BLM's website is difficult to use. Federal Budget still being negotiated. Contentious issue is continuing resolutions which keeps spending spigot open. Obernolte pushing for balanced budget since spending out of control. Soon the interest on the national debt will outstrip the ability to tax citizens. Prison Staffing Reform act. Having trouble with staffing – affects a prison in Adelanto. Fusion Energy Act. We pay highest rates for power than anywhere else. Fusion energy is clean and inexpensive compared to current fission nuclear plants – advances on the technology for commercial application are progressing.. Preserving Vehicle Choice Act, so we cannot be mandated what kind of car we must use in Calif. HR957 calling on Biden to end open border policy. Need to enforce laws already on the books.

Sheriff's Report, by Sgt. Weinberg. Clean Sweep program in schools got revoked so Sheriff's Dept. removed from any discipline in high schools – so up to parents. Shootings (lethal force) incidents skyrocketing to 2/month. Sheriff in favor of everyone who qualifies getting a CCW. 8 hour class. 4hour video and 4hours of shooting. Broken IT system from previous hack is 95% fixed. Yes, anyone living in CA needs to be concerned about cartels, and be prepared.

CHP Report, by Capt. Kovaletz, new commander in Victorville. Was stationed in Barstow so familiar with desert issues. Citations 2022 to 2023: 39% more tickets. 20% drop in injury crashes and 30% drop in fatal crashes. Re: Truck traffic avoiding the freeways and highways using County roads not built for the weight. Several are produce trucks. CHP pickup truck crews are those equipped to handle the commercial truck violations. What to do with vehicles moving too slow and building up a tail of traffic (ie: 5 or more vehicles). Can't write them up if they don't use turnouts since there are no turnouts on Hwy 18. Will work on that. Lack of passing striping and illegal passing on Hwy 18 discussed. LVEDA trying to work with Caltrans on this.

Code Enforcement: Curtis. Now two officers for our area. Cannabis team still out in the field. Trash – go to website, call it in, illegal dumping crew will clean it up. Dark Sky ordinance mentioned re: outdoor lighting. General number to call: 909-884-4056. Illegal living in trailers, etc. – report to CE but may not be their highest priority at the

moment. Over an acre of land-clearing for no specific purpose is a violation and Code Enf. working on them when reported.

Assemblyman Lackey's office. Iris reported: The Legislature is now back in session and Members have started introducing bills for consideration. Asm Lackey has until February 16th to finalize his legislative package but has already agreed to partner with Supervisor Cook in San Bernardino County on improvements to the State's Amber Alert system. He has also agreed to run legislation to exempt from income taxation any settlement funds received by those who were impacted by the Bobcat Fire in 2020. The Assemblyman and his Legislative team are going through the Governor's proposals regarding the budget and will be involved in ongoing discussions about how the deficit will be reconciled. The Assemblyman encourages you to stay involved and engaged in the decisions that come before the State Assembly and Senate and here is an example of why. The Assemblyman sits on a committee that was asked to hear discussions on AB 734, pertaining to youth tackle football. The Assemblyman is opposed to this bill as it takes the decision regarding participation in Youth Tackle Football away from the parents. Many parents, coaches, athletes and advocates spoke out about this bill and organized a rally that the Assemblyman participated in. During the rally they found out that the Governor announced he would not sign this bill if it came to his desk. It was a great win and only possible because so many people expressed their opinion. Assemblyman Lackey just received an appointment from the Governor to the Governor's Military Council. The Assemblyman is looking forward to representing the interests of the four Military Bases in his District. If you couldn't attend the Assemblyman's Grant Writing Seminar, but would still like to get the information, I have the presentation slides and will be happy to share them with you. I have applications for the Assemblyman's Award "Everyday Hero". This month is for a healthcare worker (from school nurse to brain surgeon). Let me know if you have someone you'd like to nominate, nominations are due on February 2nd. I am happy to let you know that one student from the Lucerne Valley Elementary School received an award from the Assemblyman's Student Art Competition. The Award Presentation is on February 9th at the Victor Valley Museum. I will report next month who the Lucerne Valley winner was and the award they won! The Assemblyman will be at the King of the Hammers on Friday, getting an up-close look at all that goes on, thanks to Supervisor Rowe! As always, if anyone needs assistance communicating with a State Agency, please let me know, the Assemblyman's Office is happy to help! We will continue to keep you updated on legislation impacting the High Desert and look forward to another year of partnership.

LVUSD: by Jason and Jim: Enrollment at 1,134 – up 20+ from previous week(?). Soccer and basketball won championships. FFA now has 17 pigs. Cell phones in class questioned by audience. Can't tell kids not to bring to school. How about keeping in lockers during class? Notes from Jim: "Our Charter School income was projected 3.8 million this budget. Because of growth it will now be 4.5 million - for a \$700K bonus this fiscal year. We are really doing well".

LV Museum. Chelsea LaGrainge. Moved 3 wagons out of the way to make room for Mitsubishi's donated train engine plus other news.

Fire Insurance: Edie: Renewals being cancelled. Limited # of insurance companies available here. Many have to use the Calif. Fair Plan which is about 3X the cost and limited coverage. Very likely that companies are using Cal Fire's SRA 'fire intensity' mapping and who knows what else. We asked anyone with insurance issues to tell us so we can track where the problems are. Lucerne Valley has the most modest home price increases in the area. No news about Cal Fire doing its 'intensity' review in the County Fire jurisdiction area north of the highways as was intended last year. Might be due to our opposition to the state involvement in County territory.

LUCERNE Vly C OF C. Angie: Hammer's tickets through the Chamber for locals cost \$30 - \$70 off the regular price. So far – we have \$4,500 dedicated to fireworks. "Cornermania" and vendor event coming. Doing fireworks planning, Honorary Mayor Race has Feb. 17 kick-off at the Moose Lodge with 'stew tasting', etc.

Meeting adjourned @7:10PM.