

MINUTES
LUCERNE VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (LVEDA)
WEDNESDAY May 2, 2022 – 5:00 PM – Moose Lodge

Meeting called to order 5:04 PM at Moose Lodge.

Minutes approved. Moved by Debbie, seconded by Frank.

Treasurer's Report. Collection April 4 - \$230. Gave \$30 to Moose Lodge. Balance \$3,295.93. Report by Cynthia, David Rib absent so no collection.

SHERIFF: (Det. Dekeryl for Sgt. Weinberg). Operation Hammerstrike is continuing. Operations ongoing in High Desert. Stats presented. Personnel from LV Station working with Victor Valley Station and Narcotics Division with a total of about a dozen officers at a time. Lucerne Valley and El Mirage seem to be the hot spots right now.

Q: When will this be done? A: We are eradicating them faster than they are being replaced, but will probably never be completely "done"!

Bill: Can you put GPS coordinates in the reports that you are e-mailing to us? A: No, probably won't get that info from Police Department.

Lorrie: What are they doing about the structures after they take out the grows? A: That is for Code Enforcement at the County Level. Steve Reyes said that there is an ordinance for this in progress. County is hiring contractors to clear out the parcels. Sheriff Department takes care of the criminal element, Code Enforcement takes care of the infrastructure to minimize the resurgence of the grows. Code Enforcement goes with Sheriff teams on busts and immediately starts the citation/abatement process.

Keep reporting, call Dispatch with locations.

CHP: (Officer Mike Mumford) Captain Royal Johnson gave report. He has been here since January. Commended Sheriff's Department with Hammerstrike operations!

CHP working with their commercial units and with canine interdiction to check illegal water haulers headed to marijuana grows. But haulers are using the detours around checkpoints that CHP is required to supply, making their job more difficult.

Chuck: Are more of them licensed this year than last year? A: Yes they are operating within the parameters of the law, but there are plenty out there still violating the law.

Lorrie: How many Officers dedicated to this? A: Try to get 2 Patrolmen at a time to work with Commercial Officers out of San Bernardino, but we are spread thin.

ACCIDENTS DISCUSSION: Gave stats of crashes on Hwy 247 and Hwy 18. Discussed nature of crashes. Discussed many problems with people going over the double yellow line. He will get numbers to compare crashes from last year to this year.

Q. Jessica: What are they doing to get more enforcement out here to prevent accidents that have killed 5 High School kids? When does it become a priority for CHP? Answer: It is always a priority for us and we are adding enforcement to this area. An officer sat with the perpetrator (drunk driver) at the Hospital for 8 days. Michelle: drunk driving stations? None in 10 years. There is a legal requirement to post signs for check points and provide turn-arounds for drivers!

Discussed issues of hiring qualified people to fill empty positions all over. The State is streamlining the training process to shorten it to get more recruitments. Need more Criminal Justice classes at the High Schools and Colleges to get people more interested in Law Enforcement. LVUSD has a great program now.

Q. Chelsea: What can we do to get more officers out here to cover? Discussion about the Sheriff's Department's Reserve program, but they are not popular now because the State makes it too hard to fully train them.

Peter: what would it take to make Camprock/247 intersection safer? Cal Trans survey to determine. Flashing light? Bigger stop sign? Rumble strips? CHP - Cal Trans has been asked to make higher priority.

CONGRESSMAN OBERNOLTE: (Hayden) Talked about Immigration, inflation, gas prices. Immigration: record number of illegals, Fentanyl emergency. Obernolte is fighting to fund the border wall. Inflation: worse in March than

February. Wages falling. Discussed current consumer price index and future producer price index. Obernolte is fighting to cut wasteful spending and balance the budget. Gas prices: reopen American energy. CA overregulation of energy industry. California is highest in the nation. Needles at 6.58-6.78 per gallon! 1 mile away in Arizona it is \$4.70 per gallon. Discussed 6 bills that Obernolte is working on that will be voted on in next couple of months.

ASSEMBLYMAN SMITH. Need to find a place for “Coffee and Conversation” gathering on a Saturday. Chuck: misdemeanor/felony bill died last week.

SEN. GROVE (Dominic) Bad news and good news, don’t lose hope, if you are a praying person, have faith that the State can turn around. Bills for human trafficking as a serious crime were shot down. Stop annual inflation gas tax bill. Veterans’ bills unanimous support. CDFW (Fish and Game) **staff** recommended to its Board that Joshua trees need not be listed as endangered, and that the final decision is with the CDFG Board, scheduled for their June meeting. AB 1638 to halt gas tax for 6 months has been eliminated, now dead.

THIRD DIST. SUP. (Steve Reyes). Code enforcement – Enhanced abatement triage. 7500 cases open, 485 cited, 531 search warrants. Where do fines go? Citation fines go into a County account for a number of years to be determined if legally belong to the County and not another entity. If the County’s, then goes into the General Fund and can be used for many purposes, but the intent is to use them for the Sheriff Department. Staffing much improved, so cases are getting worked. County Transportation Dept. issues: tires on highway that don’t get cleaned up; yield sign at Dead Man’s Point needs to be bigger.

Bill – publications on Hammer Strikes code enforcement need to have more information on the locations -- people need to know.

Gem tract garbage at one of the properties is really bad and nothing is being done about it.

LV SCHOOL DISTRICT (Peter Livingston)

Graduation at end of the month. Enrollment is growing.

Funding for growth – State is not passing along increased funding as enrollment grows, but should be. California Pivotal Practice award 2022. Article in Cal Matters praising trade schools.

L.V. MUSEUM (Chelsea)

Black Hawk Mine hike was good. Hike to Chimney Rock planned. Old truck for July 4th parade.

Thank you to Jim Harvey for doing the LVEDA Website.

8 MINUTE SOLAR PROJECT REPORT (Bill) The application for the original project site on the dry lake was accepted by the County for processing, which exempted it from the County’s moratorium on new industrial solar projects. They have moved east of Barstow Rd. out of sight. The site is east of Tamarisk Flats.

ANNOUNCEMENTS. Illegal food carts: Cafe 247 expressed concern that they are paying all licenses and fees but these are not. Café sent in 2 of 3 complaints to Fire Department, and then got a violation for complaining! Steve Reyes will help.

Meeting adjourned 6:48.