

LEONA VALLEY TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
January 13, 2020

- Call to Order- Michael Publicker
- Pledge to the Flag- Michael Publicker
- Roll Call- Marie Davis

Michael Publicker-present, Peggy Fuller-present, Chris Benjamin-present, Ed Simms-present, Marie Davis-present

- Approval of December Minutes
 - Chris Benjamin made a motion to approve December minutes, Ed Simms seconded. All in favor.
- Treasurer's Report – Peggy Fuller
 - The money market checking account had a beginning balance of \$6535.35. Interest from the money market account and interest from the CDs were added to the total. A payment was made for a two-year renewal to Godaddy.com for the continued ownership and control of the LVTC website and domain name in the amount of \$259.87. The ending balance of the money market account was 6703.75. The total in CDS was \$100,000.00. One of the CDs will mature on February 28. We need to decide how to reinvest the \$15,000 from that CD at the February Town Council Meeting. Total assets at the time of the January meeting were \$106,703.75.
- Sheriff's Report – Dennis Miller
 - In the Bouquet area, there were no incidents of part 1 crimes for the month of December. In the Leona Valley area, there were 2 part 1 crimes, one was a Grand Theft and the other was a Residential Burglary. Deputy Miller was unable to give details regarding the crimes in Leona Valley at this meeting due to computer issues. Deputy Miller reported that part 1 crimes are down by 22.2% from this time last year. There were 9 arrests made in Leona Valley in 2019. The arrests included, but were not limited to, violations such as domestic violence, drug related charges, and traffic violations. Michael Publicker would like to remind residents to report all crime to the Sheriff's Department in order to ensure proper response from law enforcement and accurate crime statistics.
- Business Development Manager Chris Perry, L.A. County Department of Consumer Affairs – Office of Small Business
 - Chris explained the purpose of his department is to promote and support small businesses in the area. They can act as a sort of concierge for small businesses who want to get started or want to get financial assistance from the county. They can help writing a business statement, making a business plan, or pulling permits. They can help

small businesses find new employees and train existing employees. He advises those interested in starting a business to check with regional planning first to ensure the property to be involved is able to be used as a business. A small business is defined as having less than 100 employees and earning less than 15 million dollars each year. If a small business gets certified by the county, which is another service the office provides, the county will give small businesses a 15% preference over large vendors.

- Battalion Chief Seneca Smith, Angeles National Forest – Wildfire Cohesive Strategy Workshop
 - Chief Seneca Smith said that her department has recently been reorganized due to many retirements. She wants everyone to know that the new leadership is excited to work with our community to ensure the best possible fire safety plan. Even though Leona Valley is not technically in the Angeles National Forest, we should not feel forgotten by her department. They are currently working on a large fire break on the Leona divide. Chief Smith hopes to see Fire Safe Councils in each small community. Michael Publicker agreed it is important to establish a fire safe council in Leona Valley again. William Elliott asked if the strategy toward fighting wildland fires has changed since the last big fire. Chief Smith said the Angeles Forest will never have a “let burn” policy regarding wildland fires. Suppression and quick responses are of utmost importance. Chief Smith said her department works closely with city and county fire departments in order to streamline response times. Recent fires resulting in fatalities and great losses have necessitated the cooperation across jurisdictional boundaries. Chief Smith is optimistic about the future and is looking forward to being personally involved in Leona Valley’s fire prevention plan.

- Committee Reports
 - Community Standards and Land Use -Peggy Fuller
 - A letter was sent from the Town Council to LA County, The Supervisors Office, and the City of Palmdale regarding the repaving of Godde Hill and Bouquet Canyon. The letter asked both entities to notify us of the city and county boundaries as they understand them to be. Chuck Bostwick said Bouquet Canyon is on the schedule to be repaved this summer when the weather is right. William Elliott asked if a letter had been sent to LAFCO regarding the sphere of influence. He said Leona Valley had no say in the decision years ago to include areas of

Leona Valley in Palmdale's sphere of influence and it needs to be addressed ASAP. Peggy said she is still trying to find out who to talk to regarding this issue. William Elliott wants the Town Council to make a motion indicating they agree to fight the advancing sphere of influence over parts of Leona Valley. Michael Publicker agreed this issue is important and will be on the agenda for the February Town Council Meeting for further discussion.

- Association of Rural Town Councils – Michael Publicker
 - No news – The January meeting is still a couple of weeks away.
- Community and Public Relations – Ed Simms
 - Ed is working on learning how to put links on the website.
- Finance Ways and Means – Peggy Fuller
 - All government filings are up to date. There are no immediate fundraisers or events in the near future. We need to decide what to do with the maturing CD at the next meeting.
- Community Health, Safety, and Welfare – Chris Benjamin
 - Lancaster Station Senior volunteers have been asked to help pace traffic on ELR in order to keep speeds down during high traffic times. The issue of the limit line on Bouquet Canyon and Elizabeth Lake Road being out too far in the street has been brought to the attention of County Public Works. The Newcastle quarantine is still in effect.
- . Bylaws Committee – Peggy Fuller
 - The last meeting was on Saturday with two in attendance. The bylaws were reviewed, and some updates were made. A revised draft was sent out to committee members. Peggy asked for suggestions regarding a better time and day of the week for meetings to be held in order to allow more people to attend.
- Public Comments
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- LVIA – Peggy Fuller
 - The community building will once again be used as a polling place. It will be used for election day and eleven days prior to election day. Saturday is the LVIA lasagna bake off and dinner. LVIA is still looking for fill dirt for the parking area.
- SERTOMA Announcements
 - Meeting will be at Jacks Place this Saturday. The senior dinner is scheduled for February 9 at 1pm.
- CERT/Neighborhood Watch-Mike Publicker
 - Animal Control Class for Level 1 ERT large animal evacuation will be in Agoura Hills later this month. Michael will try to get classes held in the Antelope Valley area. A basic CERT class will be on January 11,18,25 at the Lancaster Elks Lodge. The recent snow in Leona Valley has brought to light the need for self-sufficiency.

- WAVHS – Peggy Fuller
 - The Book Sale is scheduled for Leap Day, February 29.
- General Public
 - Trash dumping is becoming more of a problem along Elizabeth Lake Road. Waste Management Vouchers are available for residents in the county area through the Supervisors Office. William Elliott wanted to let all emergency responders and military present that ATT has a special plan with reduced charges. Cal water needs to be contacted regarding adequate water pressure in the fire hydrants. The flow is insufficient for the community.
 - Nicholas Matthews, the regional outreach coordinator with Valley Oasis wants everyone to know his organization is available to help with any homeless people in the community. He needs the help of volunteers on January 23 to conduct a count of homeless in our area.
 - Ali Vandereyk from Waste Management is available to answer questions at the end of the meeting.

- Town Council Board Members- No additional comments
- Old Business – None
- New Business - None

- Adjourn
 - Motion to adjourn made by Marie Davis. Ed Simms seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM