



P.O. Box 3694, Landers, CA 92285

*All HVCC agendas, contact information and minutes are posted on [www.hvccsite.org](http://www.hvccsite.org)*

## **AGENDA OCTOBER 15, 2018 MEETING**

3:00 p.m. at Johnson Valley Community Center, 50567 Quailbush Rd.

Flag Salute

Roll Call/Delegate List

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes of SEPTEMBER meeting, included in agenda packet. Treasurer's Report:  
Betty Munson

**1. Guest Comments** on items not on the agenda

**2. Election of Officers**

**3. SB County Fire Dept** - Chief Scott Tuttle

**4. SB County Sheriffs Dept** - Capt Trevis Newport

**5. CalFire** - Chief Tony Jones

**6. Proposed County Fire Parcel Tax** Text of HVCC comment included in agenda packet

**7. Countywide Action Plan** - <http://countywideplan.com/homesteadvalley/>  
replacing 2007 Homestead Valley Community Plan, posted at  
<http://www.hvccsite.org/CommunityPlanHV.pdf>

**8. Report on LV-JV and Morongo Basin MACs**

**9. Committees:**

Fund Raising/Events

Advisory-no meeting necessary

Public Outreach (Betty Munson)

Community Services/Improvements/Co-operation (Rick Sayers)

Scenic 247 (Betty Munson)

Ad hoc Committees

**10. President's Report**

**11. Action Items - Community Reports List - Announcements**

**Next HVCC meeting Monday, November 19, 3:00 pm**  
Flamingo Heights Community Center, 55977 Perris Rd.

**12. Adjourn**

## **HVCC DELEGATES / COMMITTEE LIST**

January 2015

### **INTERIM OFFICERS**

Vice President: Rick Sayers

Secretary/ Treasurer: Betty Munson

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

*Members appointed by the 4 HVCC Organizations, residing in the community they represent.  
Up to 3 voting members from each community, plus alternate to vote in case of an absence.*

Dorothy Beasley FHCA 760-364-4174  
Adrienne Bishop Landers 760-364-2345  
Floy Creveling Landers 714-309-8677 g.creveling@att.net  
Jim Hanley JVIA 760-364-4829 jhaflame@aol.com  
Jim Harvey JVIA 760-401-1015 johnsonvalley@gmail.com  
Betty Munson JVIA 760-364-2646 ranchotaj@gmail.com  
Rick Sayers YMIA 760-574-6598 rick@ricksayers.com  
Roxanna Shamay Landers 760-333-2707 shamay@inreach.com

### **AD HOC COMMITTEES**

*Committee members not required to be members of the Council*

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Fund Raising/Events:** none planned

**Scenic 247 Committee:** Chairperson: Betty Munson  
Phillip Brown, Barbara Harris, Jim Harvey, Sarah Kennington, Sara Fairchild

**Advisory Committee:** Presidents of the 4 HVCC Community Associations

**Community Outreach:** Chairperson: Betty Munson  
Jim Hanley, Rick Sayers

**Community Services / Improvements / Co-operation:** Chairperson: Rick Sayers  
Jim Hanley

**HVCC MINUTES    SEPTEMBER 17, 2018**  
**Johnson Valley Community Center**

Guests: Chuck Bell, Lucerne Valley Economic Development Assn; Jim Schooler, Field Rep for Sen. Jean Fuller, Capt. Trevis Newport, County Sheriff Dept; Sarah Kennington, Morongo Basin Conservation Assn; Gary Creveling, Stella Brin, Fred Drumm, Judith Laffoon, Eileen M. Bloomer, John Jones, Nicki Johnson-Shaffo, Robert Shaffo, Phyllis Price, Denis Staley, Margaret Kahis(?), Irene Simpson, Paula Carter, Chris Nichols, John Stevens, Cathy Hawkins, Mike Hawkins, Court Prittie, Joe Rudda, Mike MacBride, Mary Coulombe, Larry Coulombe, Barbara Harris

Flag Salute at 3:00 P.M.

**Roll Call/Delegate List**

Present: Dorothy Beasley, Adrienne Bishop, Floy Creveling, Jim Hanley, Betty Munson, Rick Sayers, Roxanna Shamay

**Agenda** - Approved

**Minutes of SEPTEMBER meeting** - Approved

**Treasurer's Report:** Betty Munson - Approved

- 1. Guest Comments** Joe Rudda, MB Health Care District Mobile Unit, will offer basic care at Community Centers, once a month at each location. Looking at minivan for pickups for people unable to drive. Extension of clinics, mid-level provider and assistant for health care, vaccinations etc., see mbhdistrict.com website. To be announced on Z107 and newspaper.
- 2. Election of Officers** call for nominations of officers. Description of HVCC projects, addressing issues with government at all levels. Tabled until next month.
- 3. SB County Fire Dept** - unable to attend
- 4. SB County Sheriffs Dept** - Capt Trevis Newport- stats Calls for service for the whole area, down slightly from last year. Will be adding a sergeant position.  
Angela Proudfoot, Sheriff Service Specialist will be taking reports, helping detectives, aid at community events.  
Kamikaze Nacho competition, fundraiser, 11 am, Oct 4, at Whitefeather, extra money for OHV, purchasing a side-by-side.  
Traffic stops of vehicles with trailers, to slow traffic traveling through the area.  
License plate readers in units, an immense aid for tracing stolen cars, missing persons, burglars leaving this jurisdiction with stolen goods. Caltrans will not allow installation of cameras on existing poles in the right of way (separate poles would be \$60,000-100,000 per installation).  
Trying to get a K9 position, and scent dog good for search and rescue in our dangerous desert conditions.
- 5. CalFire** - unable to attend
- 6. Proposed County Fire Parcel Tax** - Chuck Bell, Lucerne Valley Economic Development Assn - If 25% protest, this goes to voters; 50% will kill it. Contiguous parcels can be combined for \$108 one-time fee, will count as one for this levy. Protest forms only available on website or County will mail. This \$157.26 parcel tax to maintain existing services. Each titleholder should mail protest form. Protests must arrive before Oct. 16. No fax or e-mail.  
CalFire fee was rescinded; Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn still trying to get reimbursement.  
Paid call firefighters not being used. JV has 45-minute wait, Station 19 in Landers closed, Yucca Mesa station may relocate.  
Vacant parcels in open desert will never use the services. Many parcel owners do not live here. Bulk mailing to absentees too expensive, use social media to spread the word.  
Your Supervisor voted to proceed with this. Will this be vote of property owners or registered voters?  
Suggestions: contact HJTA, request audit of various programs which are involved. You will continue paying the property tax already distributed to County Fire. Station on Aberdeen not staffed everyday.  
118, 000 protests will be needed. Question how many more properties will be abandoned for non-payment.  
Notice looks like junk mail. Print protest forms for those that have no computer. Taxation without representation continues.
- 7. Countywide Action Plan** - Chuck Bell - County "modernizing" and re-doing 2007 plan in an unrealistic form; we said that a year and a half ago. They came back with few changes. Important to respond to action items, so later we are not told by developers that we had no plan. County puts the burdens on us. Comment soon, before EIR starts assessing things not in the plan. Better tell them you can't form special districts and taxes for special things. Talk about air monitoring equipment for future renewable energy threats. All will be computerized; ask for written copies. Zoning changes, did not tell how or when. Too many issues leave out people without computers. Specific items in 2007 Plan are now generic and meaningless. Use 2007 updated for renewables as addendum to your comment.  
Original town hall meetings were meaningless, every community hated those meetings. Internet-base plan does not show changes.  
HVCC Statement B: Advocate for Fire Station #43, unrealistic at every point. Discussion of history and dwindling use of building leased for a dollar a year to the Fire Dept, including successful pilot First Responders program and CERTS and Train the

Trainer. But now County Fire does not want volunteers.

**8. Report on LV-JV and Morongo Basin Macs**

**MB MAC:** reviewed Countywide Plan

**LV-JV MAC:** Will be protesting the Fire Tax also.

**10. Committees:**

**Removing ad hoc Committee for Marine Base Expansion approved. Any communicatios with the Base can be handled by Community Services**

**Fund Raising/Events** - no meeting

**Advisory** - no meeting necessary

**Public Outreach** (Betty Munson) notices by radio, newspaper, e-mails

**Community Services/Improvements/Co-operation** (Rick Sayers) - no report

**Scenic 247-** Sarah Kennington - Sample Visual Assessment of several miles has been submitted to Caltrans Landscape Architect. Barbara Harris, Betty Munson adding photographs.

Barbara showed photo of billboard at Buena Vista about the scenic highway. Billboards are considered an intrusion. The person who set up a GoFundMe to pay for the billboard is not associated with HVCC committee.

Graffiti abatement possible under corridor management; boulders are on BLM land. State plans future kiosks and turnoffs at scenic or historic points.

**11. President's Report** - no report

**12. Action Items** - Comment letter to Board of Supervisors protesting County Fire parcel tax.

**Community Reports List & Announcements:**

**Flamingo Heights** - Dorothy - Potluck tomorrow, doors open 5:00, dinner at 6:00. Bring a dish, \$1.00, no dish, \$5.00. October 13, Yard Sale.

**Landers** - Roxanna - Bizarre Bazaar Oct 6. 10:00-2:00, all kinds of things for sale.

**Yucca Mesa** - Mesa Fest Sept 22. More beer, more bands, more food.

**Johnson Valley** Oktoberfest, Oct. 13. 9 home brews and 2 hard ciders. Admission 8.00 before Sep 28, 12.00 after. Buffet German dinner, Dessert Bar between 5:00-6:00. Beer garden opens 3:00.

Chuck Bell: BLM: dirt roads aligned with county-maintained roads, only street-legal vehicles allowed.

**Next HVCC meeting Monday, October 15, 3:00 pm**

Johnson Valley Community Center

**13. Adjourn** at 5:07

Betty Munson, secretary

**HOMESTEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
TREASURER'S REPORT OCTOBER 2018**

**HVCC Checking Account**

BEGINNING BALANCE -9/1/18.....	\$851.34
INCOME .....	0.00
EXPENSES: .....	0.00
ENDING BALANCE CHECKING - 9/30/18 .....	\$851.34

**HVCC Savings Account**

BEGINNING BALANCE 9/1/18 .....	\$4,140.24
INCOME .....	0.00
INTEREST DEP .....	0.03
ENDING BALANCE - 9/30/18.....	\$4,140.27
<b>TOTAL HVCC ASSETS .....</b>	<b>\$4,991.61</b>

**CASH IN BANK:**

US BANK - CHECKING .....	\$851.34
US BANK - SAVINGS .....	4,140.27
TOTAL CASH IN BANK ACCOUNTS .....	\$4,991.61

LEGEND:

CK - CHECK

DC - DEBIT CARD

DEP - DEPOSIT

EFT - ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER

BETTY MUNSON  
TREASURER

September 28, 2018

Supervisor James Ramos  
Supervisor Robert Lovingood  
Supervisor Janice Rutherford  
Supervisor Josie Gonzales  
Supervisor Curt Hagman

Dear Fire District Board:

The Homestead Valley Community Council (HVCC) is a coalition of the community organizations of Landers, Yucca Mesa, Flamingo Heights and Johnson Valley.

Chief Mark Hartwig has made a valiant effort to explain the action of the Board of Directors of the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District in passing resolution 2018-99 to expand the boundaries of Service Zone FP-5. The Homestead Valley lies in this zone.

He made plain the County Fire Department commitment and dedication to providing fire and emergency services over a vast service area. He made plain his and your concerns over the forecast budget shortfall.

He made plain that he and the Fire Protection Board of Directors believe that expanding Service Zone FP-5 and levying a parcel tax of \$157.26 annually will solve the shortfall and maintain existing service levels.

He did not make plain how most of the property owners now caught up in this county-wide expansion will pay our tax bills every year.

We cannot imagine that the Board exists in a state of ignorance about the financial status of the unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County including the Homestead Valley. Our communities, designated by the US Census as disadvantaged, have a higher-than-average percentage of retirees, including veterans of the US Military, mostly low- and fixed-income families. Our property values are just beginning to pull out of a decade of doldrums - therefore the "property tax revenues insufficient to cover the costs" of which County Fire complains.

Fact 1: a parcel tax levied on every parcel, vacant or developed, large or small, no matter the owners' ability to pay any more taxes than we already do, is, by the fact itself, the most unfair of taxes.

Fact 2: most undeveloped parcels can be predicted never to need fire service as they do not lie in a fire hazard zone, and certainly will never need medical aid service. If this \$157.26 is indeed an "annual parcel fee" as described on the sbc-fire.org website, we see the title holder as receiving no benefit for this fee.

Fact 3: many of us own more than one parcel of low-value land.

Fact 4: If you describe the population that now experiences a dwindling level of service from fewer fire stations and increasing response times as being "subsidized" by the current FP-5, you must describe taxing those who will never need service on undeveloped parcels as forcing them to subsidize more populous areas who do have better services and shorter response times. Or, lose their property, not a winning strategy for increasing County Fire revenues.

Fact 5: This dismal level of service adds the burden of finding affordable fire insurance, if you can find it at all. We bought property here by choice. Our predecessors had achieved fire stations and first responders. Gone now. Once again, if

this \$157.26 is indeed an "annual parcel fee" as described on the sbcfire.org website, we see the title holder as receiving no benefit for this fee.

Fact 6: Many rural desert residents have little or no access to computers, the internet or social media. Many do not live in the proposed zone, or even in the county, the state or the USA. Did you expect 100% of title holders to hear about this proposed parcel tax or the public meetings explaining it? You must count a percentage of participating voters; lack of response cannot be counted as a vote for approval of this tax. Since some who now pay more or very little less might be presumed to be in favor of this proposal, how could they make that known in writing?

Fact 7: The nondescript envelope bearing the mailed notices makes no mention of a new tax. Arriving in the mailbox of someone who has not heard of "FP-5 Service Zone Expansion," means that many can - and have been - thrown away, or set aside to deal with later under the impression it is nothing urgent.

Fact 8: Not including the protest form with the notification guarantees a delay in returning a protest if the title holder must request the county to mail it, or be lucky enough to have neighbors and community organizations to download a form and print it for them. Why did the burden of obtaining the form get handed to the title holder?

Fact 9: The brief period between the receipt of the notification and the date the protest must be returned by mail for counting makes it hard to believe the Board truly wants a fair expression of public reaction. Even allowing a postmark by October 16 would have eased concerns over the unpredictability of the US Postal Service, and made your action seem more like a good-faith proposal.

Fact 10: the weighting of the protests by the value of the titleholder's property makes it impossible to believe the Board wants a fair expression of public reaction. The word "scam" is freely-used these days.

Fact 11: Our slowly-recovering property values have taken a hit. Vacant parcels have already gone on the market just in anticipation this fire tax will happen. (In some cases, the \$157.26 parcel tax exceeds the current property tax.)

Fact 12: Parcels with absentee owners who rarely visit the property for any reason will be abandoned. This already happens; second or third-generation heirs of original homesteaders, who have no interest in building or the upkeep of an existing building, let the property go for non-payment of taxes. Too often, these get snapped up by undesirable purchasers, witness the influx of drug dealers and illegal marijuana growers. Or, the property sits at the mercy of the weather, vandals and squatters.

The HVCC has protested against many governmental actions from which we have no protection that reduce our property values, including:

a) The expansion of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms closed the recreating public out of half of the largest, most geologically varied and undeveloped desert set aside in the 70's for off-road travel, camping, and attractions for exploring such as geocaching, rockhounding, photography, and astronomy. Massive commentary from all over the nation during the studies for the National Environmental Protection Plan barely saved the remainder as the Johnson Valley OHV Area. Visitors who formerly spent money here and bought private property

nearby for vacation getaways no longer feel the former attraction.

b) Governmental mandates to increase the development of renewable energy resources, particularly wind and solar power, brought an onslaught of ill-advised, taxpayer-funded destruction of desert habitat and industrialization of wild country, and private properties within unincorporated communities as well. All our predictions of the detrimental effects have come true.

c) Governmental mandates against issuing building permits for property owners who rely on hauled water reduce the value of vacant land, and prospective buyers interested in enlarging existing homestead cabins give up when they have to take on the gamble of drilling a well.

d) Governmental mandates imposing urban standards for rural commercial development or remodeling: sidewalks to nowhere, highway improvements, rainwater runoff, etc. discourage local business.

e) Governmental actions relating to marijuana are perceived by some as carte blanche to start their own farms in this remote area, detrimental to both the citizenry and the water resources, and certainly worrisome to live near, given the history of these practices in other counties.

We now add to this list the HVCC protest against the proposed parcel tax by the Board of Directors of the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District. The consensus here: you will promote more reduction of property values, more abandonment of properties, an intolerable burden on many of our neighbors, and for what?

Please continue to work on other fundraising resources not requiring taxation without representation. Allow for the disadvantages existing in these desert communities, do not increase them.

Even if the HVCC cannot add protest forms to the count, we can give voice for the people who cannot hear of this proposal, who cannot get their protests in on time, or whose property assessments are so low you discount their protests.

We count on you to hear them.

Betty Munson, HVCC Secretary

760-364-2646