

## **MINUTES OF THE JUNE 28, 2021 SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

*Chairman Ken Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM at the Little Egg Harbor (“LEH”) Community Center. Because of the Coronavirus pandemic, this was the first meeting of the Board since February, 2020.*

*There was a Flag salute and a moment of silence for our military and world peace.*

*Roll call was taken. Board members in attendance were: Ken Miller, Ann Mikos, Linda Cicco, Nancy Cotter, Richard Dutton and Maryann O’Neill. Barbara Jo Crea, Liaison to the Township Committee, was also in attendance.*

*Minutes from the February 24, 2020 meeting, having been read, were approved by the Board.*

*The first speaker was Chief Richard J. Buzby, Jr., of the LEH Police Department, who said that this would be his last appearance at the Board in his role as Chief because he was about to retire after serving LEH for most of the past four decades, during which he had seen a great deal of development and change in the township. He then gave his customary update on police-related matters affecting the community since the last Board meeting and began by saying that there are still drug problems, but the Department’s Street Crimes Unit continues to keep them under control. He then reported that his Department usually receives 4-5 calls for service daily in the commercial corridor, typically involving such things as shoplifting and medical issues, and that domestic disputes and calls related to alcohol and mental health have been up as a result of the pandemic, with about three calls daily involving emotionally disturbed people. He then said that senior fraud continues to occur and once again urged those present to be suspicious if ever contacted about money you did not know belonged to you and to refrain from responding to any request for funds (for example, from someone claiming to be an arrested or stranded relative) on the spur of the moment but rather wait until you can obtain better information. He added that his Department works with agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Homeland Security because so much fraudulent activity is offshore. He also urged those present to keep their car doors locked at all times and to the extent possible simply stay away from high crime areas such as New York City, which have seen such an increase in crime recently. On the subject of the decision that has to be made by each community by August concerning legalization of marijuana, he does not think that the revenues for LEH resulting from such legalization would be that great, but on the other hand if the community approved legalization it could at least exercise control over the situation locally. He also said that current rules impose restrictions on when a police officer can engage a teenager who is high on drugs or alcohol. He then responded to several specific questions from members of the Board and the audience relating primarily to traffic issues in town.*

*The next speaker was Carol Evans, Recycling Coordinator for the LEH Department of Public Works, who reported that she was also about to retire and was training Sue Munson of the Construction Office to take over as her replacement. She said that during her tenure she had improved recycling rates, sent mailings to residents summarizing recycling rules and provided stickers for residents’ containers. She reported that there was an increase in the volume of trash and recycling picked up during the pandemic and also said that there would be a prohibition of plastic bags in LEH beginning next spring, but that there are cloth bags with the LEH name on them available at Town Hall and the Recycling Center and that anyone who brings in five plastic bags will be given a cloth bag in exchange for them.*

*The third speaker was Danielle Roselli, Vice President of Manasquan Bank, who reported that the Bank had seen an increase in fraud during the pandemic. She urged those present to delete any suspicious-looking email purporting to be from a familiar institution and contact the institution separately, remove labels from discarded prescription bottles that contain information that could be used to commit fraud through one's doctor's office and avoid clicking on links in texts received on cell phones, as such texts are also now being used in addition to emails for fraudulent purposes.*

*Under "new business", it was announced that a proclamation was on Governor Murphy's desk (which was since signed) that would protect homeowners' associations from COVID-related lawsuits. Former Mayor Barbara Jo Crea then reviewed the various voting options available for November's elections.*

*The next meeting of the Senior Advisory Board will be on Monday, July 26, 2021 at 10:00 AM at the LEH Community Center. All seniors are welcome and urged to attend.*

*The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00 P.M.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Dutton, Acting Secretary, LEH Senior Citizens' Advisory Board*