

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 26, 2022 SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Chairman Ken Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM at the Little Egg Harbor (“LEH”) Community Center.

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, Maryann O’Neill, Linda Cicco, Diane Coyle, Richard Dutton, Donna O’Brien and Lisa Stevens. Dan Maxwell, Liaison to the Township Committee, was also in attendance.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Board on July 25, 2022 were then approved by motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried.

The first speaker was Chief James Hawkins of the LEH Police Department, who gave the customary update on police-related matters affecting the community. He first reported that there has been an increase in calls to his Department of more than 20% over the previous year and that the greatest growth has been in the area of mental health, at least in part drug-related. He then noted that school is now open and urged drivers to be careful and to be patient with stopped school buses. He said that his Department is especially focusing on school safety and that in addition to the longtime practice of having a police car and officer at every school, police officers are now detailed to stop at schools as part of their patrols in order to increase contact and establish relationships and also retired police officers have been hired to monitor halls in schools. He further reported that new radar traffic devices have been positioned and moved around in various places in the community to collect data so that officers can be specifically detailed to problem areas. He added that funds forfeited by drug dealers on both the state and federal levels are being used to finance new police equipment. Finally, he said that there are currently a handful of homeless people in a couple of locations in LEH and that they tend to congregate in the vicinity of the Wawa store and gas station on Mathistown Road.

The next speaker was Detective Lindsay Lauget of the Ocean County Prosecutor’s Office, who spoke about current scams and gave advice as to how to avoid being victimized by them. In one, a caller claims to be from the Social Security Administration, says that there is a problem with your benefits and asks for your Social Security number and other personal information. Anyone receiving such a call should terminate it and call Social Security directly to find out if there really is a problem. In another scam, someone claiming to be a tech support person says that there is a problem with your computer and asks you to provide remote access to it or to click on a link that is sent to you. Do not do this, but rather if you think that you really do have a virus or other problem take your computer to a repair shop or call the Geek Squad or other entity that provides home computer service. Recent scams related to the COVID virus include one in which scammers ask for out-of-pocket payment for vaccines that are free or ask for personal information or for you to click on a link, claiming that they are contact tracing. Other scams have involved calls from someone claiming to be from the IRS offering a stimulus payment but asking you to pay taxes on it first (and often requesting such payment via a gift card, which is an immediate tipoff that the call is a fake!); similar calls saying you have won a prize in a Nigerian or Jamaican lottery and asking you to pay taxes on it up front (You cannot win a prize in any lottery which you did not enter!); the ubiquitous calls about an extended warranty on your car; calls offering you a gift card at a store if you sign up as a test shopper (and provide personal information about yourself); contact on social media hinting at romance and culminating in a

person (often fictitious) asking you to send them money; and calls from someone posing as your grandchild, claiming to be in trouble and asking you to send money, often involving a second person claiming to be a lawyer representing the grandchild (With regard to this scam, always hang up and call the grandchild or his or her parent directly). Finally, when dealing with any contractor who approaches you, ask for his/her contractor number, check with the Department of Consumer Affairs, enter into a written contract and do not pay in cash.

The next speaker was Surrogate Jeffrey W. Moran of the Ocean County Surrogate's Office. The Surrogate is the judge who appoints and oversees executors and administrators of estates of deceased persons as well as guardians of minor children and of incapacitated adults, and also processes adoptions. He said his office probates about thirty wills a day on average, provides records online so that they are accessible even from other states, and in general is "user friendly" and accommodating to the extent that an executor named in a will of a deceased person or the person's next of kin when there is no will can come into his office, complete paperwork and be appointed as executor or administrator in a matter of days without any significant costs and without even hiring a lawyer. He gave out an excellent, detailed and helpful guidebook to the probate process in Ocean County as well as a personal record booklet in which to record personal information for the benefit of others in the event of one's death. Additional copies of these items are available at no charge through his office (Tel.: 732-929-2011).

Board Member Maryann O'Neill then urged that LEH communities join Firewise, the national fire prevention project; Board Member Lisa Stevens reported that the annual LEH Pulaski Day observance would take place on October 15 at the township's Pulaski Monument and would include a re-enactment, the firing of a cannon and speakers; and Township Committee Liaison Daniel Maxwell announced that the LEH Harvest Festival would take place on October 22 at the Sports Complex.

The next meeting of the Board will be on Monday, October 31, 2022 at 10:00 AM at the Cranberry Creek Clubhouse. All seniors are welcome and urged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:25 A.M.

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