

MINUTES OF THE JULY 25, 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 June 27, 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 noted that there have been homeless people living in the woods in LEH and that it is always necessary to ascertain the owner of property on which they are living and if it is private property contact the owner in connection with taking any action with respect to them. He further reported that his officers have been busy and that the number of police calls had increased by 700 from a year ago; that there had been a fatal crash on Route 539 the day before in which a motorcyclist from West Creek had been killed; and that use of fireworks in LEH on July 4 had been down from last year. He then said that sixteen taser units were now being used by officers in his Department, that there has been an increase in mental health related calls recently and that the use of tasers has changed the nature of officers' engagement when on calls and modified their use of force. With regard to golf course crossings such as those across Radio Road at Atlantis and across Railroad Avenue at Sea Oaks, he pointed out that although the law requires that cars stop for pedestrians who step out at such crossings (which would include golfers carrying or wheeling their own bags), it does not mandate stopping for golf carts, which are motorized vehicles, and golf cart drivers must accordingly be cautious and not just pull out into the crossings assuming vehicles will stop. Finally, he said that his Department would be obtaining two more radar trailers which will be placed at key points in LEH to slow down speeding vehicles.

The next speaker was Barbara Jo Crea, former LEH Committeewoman and now an Ocean County Commissioner. She explained what a Commissioner does and reported that her own responsibilities are in the areas of human services, social services, planning and solid waste (More specifically, according to the Ocean County website, she is Chairwoman of Human Services, liaison to the County Board of Social Services, liaison to the County Planning Department and liaison to the County Solid Waste Management Department). She noted that Ocean County is the largest county in New Jersey by area and that while it only has about 62,000 residents during the off season, this number increases to 1.3 million during the summer. She further noted that the Southern Ocean Resource Center in Manahawkin now has a Meals on Wheels drop-in site and offices with representatives of Human Services, Social Services, Veterans' Services and the County Surrogate, so that it is no longer necessary to travel to the Toms River offices of these entities. She added that other things are being brought to the southern part of the County, such as the dog park at Freedom Fields, and that funds were available under the federal government's American Rescue Plan to deal with the County's homeless problem.

The next speaker was Anthony Martone of Group Insurance Solutions, LLC, who provides information and advice at no charge to seniors concerning Medicare benefits and plans that supplement them. He began by explaining the Medicare system and rules: generally, at age 65 seniors are enrolled in Medicare Part A, which does not require payment of any premiums and provides just hospital coverage, and Medicare Part B, which requires payment of a premium in an amount that depends upon one's income and covers such items as the costs of doctor visits and medical equipment, but pays only about 80% of such costs. The balance of such costs is typically covered through Medicare Part C (a Medicare Advantage Plan administered by a private company), a Health Maintenance Organization or HMO (a plan that provides coverage through a specified network of doctors) or a Preferred Provider Organization or PPO (a plan that provides greater benefits if you use an in-network doctor or hospital). In addition, there are Medicare Part D plans that provide reimbursement in varying amounts for the costs of various prescription drugs--Mr. Martone noted that there are 23 such plans available in New Jersey--and in selecting a plan one must consider the amounts the plan pays for each of the specific drugs one takes regularly. Each year there is a period from October 15 through December 7, the "annual election period", during which one can make changes in one's coverage, and Mr. Martone can provide free advice with respect to the many considerations that are involved in deciding what, if anything, should be changed with regard to one's coverage. His office is located at 128 Cedar Street in Tuckerton (on the corner of Main Street, about opposite the new Dunkin Donuts) and his telephone number is 609-296-6701.

Township Committee Liaison Daniel Maxwell then announced that the National Night Out will be held this year on August 2 at the newly updated Sports Complex off Route 539.

There will be no August meeting of the Board; the next meeting of the Board will be on Monday, September 26, 2022 at 10:00 AM at the Little Egg Harbor Community Center. All seniors are welcome and urged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:20 A.M.

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