

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 27, 2023 SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Chairman Ken Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM at the Tall Timbers Clubhouse.

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, Linda Cicco, Nancy Cotter, Richard Dutton and Lisa Stevens. Ray Gormley and Dan Maxwell, Liaisons to the Township Committee, were also in attendance

The minutes of the last meeting of the Board on January 30, 2023 were then approved by motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried.

In the past, the first speaker at the Board's monthly meetings has been the Chief of the Little Egg Harbor ("LEH") Police Department, who has given updates on police-related matters affecting the community. It was announced, however, that these updates would now be given only every other month and the Chief would not be present at this meeting.

The first speaker was instead Earl Sutton Jr., Executive Director of the LEH Municipal Utilities Authority ("MUA"), who began by noting that although only a minute percent of the world's water is drinkable, LEH's tap water certainly is, and there is no need for residents to buy bottled water, which sometimes comes from questionable sources in other states in containers made of plastic that could contain contaminants. He then said that he has been frustrated by the fact that work is behind schedule on the ten-year plan to replace infrastructure in LEH, which was interrupted by the COVID epidemic and now faces a number of other issues, some of them financial. He then introduced Michael DiFrancia, Superintendent License Operator at the MUA, who said that he has worked at the MUA since he graduated from high school 27 years ago and holds ten state licenses. He reported that 95% of the MUA's work is done in house, including sewer replacement, repair of water main breaks and work inside the treatment plant; there is a crew of twelve, and they are constantly learning. He said that coming to work at the MUA would be a good choice for a young person looking for long-term employment because it is in a "recession-proof industry". Mr. Sutton then added that on the one hand the MUA uses drones and very high-end technology and on the other hand maintains personal contact with its customers to the extent that someone will come and ring a person's doorbell to see if there is a problem if there is high water usage on a given day. He then reported that redoing LEH's water towers has involved not only painting but things such as satisfying OSHA requirements and unclogging clogged vents. The Sea Oaks tower will be cleaned this year and redone in about two years, and the job will involve considerable extra expense because of communications equipment on top that will have to be removed. He then said, in response to questions from the audience, that there was no lead in any of the pipes leading into LEH homes; that he expects that there will be a minimal increase in the MUA's charges next year; that there are still some residents in LEH who use wells and do not have township water and sewer service; that commercial customers pay more for sewer service if they use more water, while residential customers pay overage for water but not sewer; and that the blue boxes installed recently in the township, generally next to fire hydrants, are used to test constantly for bacteria in the water as required by the state, but LEH's water comes from aquifers way below ground and is among the purest.

The next speaker was Danielle Roselli, the Manager of the LEH branch of Manasquan Bank, who once again spoke about the prevalence of scams directed at seniors. She said you should

never give credit card information, a PIN or your Social Security number over the phone, or store your passwords on your computer, because of the possibility of hacking, or click on a link in an email that purports to be from a familiar source unless you are sure that the email is legitimate, perhaps first checking with the source independently to verify the email's legitimacy. She also recommended using an "app" available from an institution where an account is maintained to monitor the account on a current basis, because by the time you receive your next monthly statement by mail it may be more difficult or too late to address a fraudulent transaction. Also, using such an app or otherwise contacting the institution, you can lock out a credit card temporarily if it is lost or stolen and then unlock it later, and notify the institution as to when you are traveling so that use of your card will not be denied while you are away. Finally, she said that there will be a shredding truck available at the Bank's Manahawkin branch on June 10.

LEH Township Committee Liaison Dan Maxwell then reported that the Committee had put out to hire a part-time LEH recreation director; that the annual Senior Expo was scheduled for May 4; that the grand reopening of the outdoor portion of the Community Center, with its new skate park, pickleball courts and basketball courts, was scheduled for May 27; and that a Memorial Day parade was scheduled for May 29, with a parade route from St. Theresa's Church to the Veterans' Park.

LEH Township Committee Liaison Ray Gormley then reported that Mystic Beach, at the end of Radio Road, and Parkertown Beach will have new sand by mid- to late April and will be nicer than they have ever been. He also said that there has been a significant amount of new commercial activity in LEH; that the township now has three liquor licenses available and one has been put out for sealed bids; and that there has been an expression of interest in putting a sports bar and restaurant at the intersection of Route 539 and Frog Pond Road across from the Wawa store. Finally, with regard to the growth of LEH, he noted that it has 40 police officers today compared with only one back in the 1960s.

The next meeting of the Board will be on Monday, March 27, 2023 at 10:00 AM at the Community Center. All seniors are welcome and urged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:35 A.M.

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