Chairman, Ken Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00am. There was a flag salute and a moment of silence for our military.

Roll call was taken, members in attendance were: Ann Mikos, Nancy Cotter, Rocco Competello, Richard Dutton, Moira Modica, Betty Vivona, John Ways, Fran Zimmer, Committeewoman Lisa Stevens (temporary replacement for Deputy Mayor Bobbi Jo Crea)

The first speaker was Joseph Coronato, Esq.-Ocean County Prosecutor. He spoke on the Opioid epidemic, that is a growing problem in Ocean County, and is responsible for 85% of the crimes. It crosses all levels of our society and all age groups. It can start with prescription drugs (Percocet, OxyContin and others). Kids take them from their parents and sell them for $5. To 10. A pill. Then they move on to other relatives medicine cabinets.

Doctors used to prescribe 30 pills, now there is a new N.J. Law that says only 5 pills. Taking them for a sixth day can increase addiction to possibly over 70%. Many people become addicted after surgeries.

Mr. Coronato went into great detail regarding how people get the drugs, who is using them, and the dealers.

He listed three parts to solving the problem: Education, (the bulk of our cost), Law enforcement, (With aggressive prosecution of dealer), and Health-care (need to break the cycle, and doctors have to take some responsibility).

He detailed what Ocean County is doing: Using Narcan, to block neuro receptors (police and hospitals now have it. He heard of an instance where the dealers now carry some for their buyers.

There is an Overdose Response Programs, and BLUE HEART, where an addict can walk into a police station and ask for help. Mr. Coronato’s presentation was very detailed and interesting.
The second speaker was Chief Buzby, spoke regarding an incident at the Pinelands school.

Where someone on FACEBOOK was calling for a “clan” gathering. It turned out to be harmless, but the police are monitoring FACEBOOK and are always on the watch.

He also mentioned that there were lower burglary rates in our Senior Communities.

The Chief also said that drug crime was escalating, bail reform is letting bad guys out in a hurry.

The new shooting range is with the Pinelands Commission, we are hopeful that their approval is imminent.

The Police are under staffed by at least 6 and juggling is very difficult. Also it is difficult to find qualified people.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Zimmer, Secretary Senior Advisory Board