

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 28, 2019 SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Chairman Ken Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM at Town Hall, 665 Radio Road.

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

Roll call was taken. Board members in attendance were: Ken Miller, Ann Mikos, Nancy Cotter, Betty Vivona, Fran Zimmer, Diane Coyle and Richard Dutton. Liaison, Mayor Barbara Jo Crea, was also in attendance.

This was the first meeting of the Board under the new administration with Ms. Crea as Mayor, and she spoke first and said that she had chosen to continue to be the Township Committee's Liaison with the Board in addition to her duties as Mayor. She also welcomed the many members of the Genealogy Club of Little Egg Harbor who were present.

The next speaker was Chief Richard J. Buzby, Jr. of the LEH Police Department, who began by reporting once again on the drug problem. He said that too much fentanyl is coming into the country, it comes from Mexico and it is typically transported in backpacks by individual drug couriers who sneak across the border, meet a contact person, deliver it and then return across the border. He added that the quality of this fentanyl is "amazing", its price is low and its availability is affecting all American communities. He then reported that on the previous Friday an arrest had been made in Parkertown of someone with a large quantity of heroin through a joint effort of his Department and the State Police. While statistics for the period beginning in 2012 show that Ocean County has had a lower increase in its drug problem than other New Jersey counties, the problem is an enormous one both here and nationally--the number of drug-related deaths has increased so much that life expectancy has decreased--and he feels that there is a need for an effort on the national level to stamp out drug availability and drug use. He is also seeking to promote education and prevention efforts in LEH and urged everyone present to read and become familiar with the drug problem. He also reported that while there had been 31 administrations of the life-saving drug Narcan in LEH during 2018 there had been five in only the previous weekend, and a sudden peak in the need for Narcan administrations always leads investigators to think that there might be a particular drug dealer supplying an especially lethal strain of drug to residents. He said that drug overdose victims are generally in the age bracket of 23-31, although some have been in their 60s and 70s; very few, however, are under 23. He then answered many questions from audience members about drugs and drug issues and then spoke briefly about revitalizing the LEH Community Center and about senior fraud. He said that fraudsters are becoming more sophisticated, sometimes initiating contact in a "fishing expedition" to locate information that will be used later in a request for money, and he once again cautioned against falling for scams in which a stranger says, for example, that there is back pay that belongs to you or there is money available for you from a relative you did not know existed.

The next speaker was Anna Tews of the Genealogy Club of Little Egg Harbor, which was founded in 1999, has about 30 members and meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. About 20 members typically attend and the Club has been meeting at the Church of the Holy Spirit until it finds a new permanent home. The Club has had many speakers and its members do research using census, immigration and citizenship records and other sources of information to find out interesting details about their ancestors. A number of members have had DNA tests through Ancestry.com, which provides a list with contact information for other people

who have been tested and have similar DNA, indicating a relationship. In the case of Ms. Tews' husband, getting in touch with someone located that way resulted in identifying a man in an old photograph he had as his great-grandfather. Contacting collateral relatives, she said, may provide helpful information if you cannot trace your ancestry beyond a certain point in your direct line, you can go on Facebook and post your maiden name to make contacts and you can review immigration records from Ellis Island, ships' logs and similar sources now readily available and one thing will typically lead to another to enable you to flesh out the details of your family's past.

The next meeting of the Senior Advisory Board will be on Monday, February 25, 2019 at 10 AM at Mystic Shores. All seniors are welcome and urged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:25 AM.

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