

## **MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 26, 2018 SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

*Chairman Ken Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM at the Mystic Shores Clubhouse, 204 Shenandoah Drive.*

*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, Diane Coyle, Betty Vivona, John Ways, Fran Zimmer, Rocco Competello and Richard Dutton. Liaison, Deputy Mayor Barbara Jo Crea and Township Committee Member Lisa Stevens were also in attendance.*

*Minutes from the January 29, 2018 meeting, having been read, were approved by the Board.*

*The first speaker was Chief Richard J. Buzby, Jr. of the LEH Police Department. In light of the recent mass shooting at a Florida high school, he began by reporting about his Department's involvement in security at the local public schools. He said that school safety had been a long-standing concern, even before the similar Columbine shooting in 1999, and that the first LEH police officer was placed in a school here after a grant was received for that purpose in that year. Additional grants were subsequently obtained and used in part for security equipment such as a video monitoring system and improved locks. In recent years, in light of the dearth of grant funds, schools have generally had to bear a portion of the costs for security and typically contribute close to 50% of such costs themselves. Also, the great increase in the drug problem in our area has been competing with school security as a concern for law enforcement (and, in this regard, the Street Crimes Unit has been very successful and there has been a significant reduction in overdoses, overdose deaths and Narcan administration in Ocean County). The Chief said that he was ashamed of the inadequate law enforcement response with regard to the Florida shooting incident and added that he felt confident that, in any similar situation here, any of his officers would have entered the school building rather than remaining outside. Without going into details, he said that one local boy had posted concerning comments and pictures of weapons on a website and, in response, members of his Department went to Pinelands Regional High School and waited outside to be sure that the boy was unable to enter the school. The Chief then made the suggestion that a procedure be put in place for issuance of a "gun violence restraining order" to enable guns to be secured when a threat is identified and that a special judge be assigned to hear such cases like the judge who now deals with domestic violence cases. In response to questions from the audience, he said that he felt that it would be acceptable for teachers to carry guns, if they were capable; that background checks for new applicants for gun permits currently take about a month; that nearly 90% of guns used in crimes here come from outside New Jersey; and that he estimates that about 50% of LEH residents have guns, down from probably more than 90% before the large influx into LEH in recent years of new residents from outside the area. He had nothing new to report with regard to the status of the long-pending relocation of the Police Department shooting range.*

*The next speaker was Jim Sigurdson, Executive Director of Meals on Wheels of Ocean County ("MOW"), which currently operates 33 vehicles and delivers thousands of meals to homebound seniors, six days a week (with an extra meal on Saturday for Sunday) and also provides meals to ambulatory seniors who are able to come to their centers, one of which is located at the intersection of Routes 72 and 9 in Stafford. In addition, MOW provides a number of other services, including chronic disease and diabetes self-management programs and wellness*

*checks, to enable seniors to remain living at home with dignity, independence and safety. MOW's programs also provide socialization: seeing a friendly driver who delivers a meal or interacting with other seniors over a meal at one of their centers combats loneliness and provides hope. There is no requirement of financial need in order to obtain MOW's meals or other services and meals are served free of charge, although a \$2 donation is requested from each meal recipient. Seniors are invited to contact MOW, either to request meals or services for themselves, to refer others whom they think might benefit from receiving meals or services, or to make contributions to MOW, which are tax-deductible. MOW's telephone number is 732-367-1400 and its website is [www.csimow.org](http://www.csimow.org). Mr. Sigurdson added that another resource for anyone with a question about any senior-related issue is the Ocean County Office of Senior Services, which may be contacted at 732-929-2091.*

*Finally, the Township Committee Liaison, Deputy Mayor Barbara Jo Crea, reminded everyone about the Heart Health Event (February being "Heart Health Month") sponsored by the Senior Advisory Board to be held at the LEH Community Center on February 28 from 10 AM to 1 PM that would include speakers from Southern Ocean Medical Center, a nutritionist, a cardiologist and a physical therapist, blood pressure and cholesterol screenings and a drop box for unwanted prescription drugs. She also said that the date of the annual Senior Expo this year would be Wednesday, May 2.*

*The next meeting of the Board will take place on Monday, March 26, 2018 at 10:00 AM at the Harbor Bay Clubhouse. All seniors are welcome and urged to attend.*

*The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:40 AM.*

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