

APPROVED ON APRIL 30, 2018
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 26, 2018 SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Chairman Ken Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM at the Harbor Bay Clubhouse.

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, Betty Vivona, John Ways, Nancy Cotter and Richard Dutton. Liaison, Deputy Mayor Barbara Jo Crea, was also in attendance.

Minutes from the February 26, 2018 meeting, having been read, were approved by the Board.

The first speaker was Chief Richard J. Buzby, Jr. of the LEH Police Department, who began by speaking once again about the drug problem in LEH. He reported that he had been invited to Washington, D.C. to testify before the Director of National Drug Control Policy and he felt that the feedback he received afterwards indicated that the country has finally taken note of the importance of the drug issue and that it appears that there will be serious funding that will benefit Ocean and Monmouth Counties. He then again mentioned the Blue Heart Program, under which drug addicts can come into or be brought by a family member into a local police station to seek rehabilitation without fear of arrest, and he said that 375 addicts have come in so far in Ocean County. He also said that shoplifting and property crimes, which are typically committed by addicts, are down. He then reported that a drug, Vivitrol, that acts as a block for narcotics is now available, but it is very expensive and must be administered as part of a medical regimen. In summary, he said that addiction is now being taken more seriously and getting more attention, but that traditional law enforcement methods do not work in addressing the problem; you cannot “arrest your way out of it”. He added, however, that his unit headed by Lt. Troy Bezak had knocked off five drug distributors during the preceding week in a single raid.

The Chief then turned to other issues and said that there had been additional instances of senior fraud and residents should never give out items of personal information or account numbers to a telephone caller or in response to an email unless they are certain that the request for them is legitimate. On the subject of legalization of marijuana, he reported that the New Jersey Chiefs of Police are opposed to it and he personally regards decriminalization as a “thorny and slippery slope”. Finally, in response to a question from the audience, he said that there are no metal detectors in our local schools, but wands are in use and vestibules have been installed at school entrances to permit screening before an outsider is admitted to the building.

Next, two speakers from Wells Fargo Bank in Tuckerton, Andrew Morales, a customer sales and service representative (“personal banker”), and Robert Gibbs, a “premier banker” who acts as a sort of “financial concierge” to provide assistance with things such as credit cards, mortgages and wealth management, briefly provided information about the services the Bank offers and answered questions from the audience. They said that they provide tutelage in online banking for seniors.

The next speaker was Dawn Heyson, Senior Manager of the LEH branch of the Ocean County Library, who reported on upcoming programs at the Library and said that it is now possible for holders of library cards to obtain free access from home to issues of a variety of current and historical newspapers by logging onto the Library website. For example, old issues of the New

York Times are available through a website named Proquest accessible through the Library website.

Finally, the Township Committee Liaison, Deputy Mayor Barbara Jo Crea, reported that the drop box for unwanted medicines is still in the foyer of Town Hall, 665 Radio Road; that the annual Senior Expo will be held this year at the LEH Community Center on Wednesday, May 2 and is expected to include about 100 vendors and attract about 1,500 attendees; that a Township program that will provide information about rebates, reimbursements and refunds is in the works; and that seniors are urged to visit the newly-updated leht.com website if they have not already done so.

The next meeting of the Board will take place on Monday, April 30, 2018 at 10:00 AM at the Cranberry Creek Clubhouse, 41 Briarwood Drive. All seniors are welcome and urged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:05 AM.

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