

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 25, 2019 SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Chairman Ken Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM at the Mystic Shores 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, Ann Mikos, Betty Vivona, Fran Zimmer, Diane Coyle, Maryann O'Neill and Richard Dutton. Liaison, Mayor Barbara Jo Crea, was also in attendance.

Minutes from the November 26, 2018 and January 28, 2019 meetings, having been read, were approved by the Board.

The first speaker was Chief Richard J. Buzby, Jr. of the Little Egg Harbor ("LEH") Police Department, who once again began by reporting on his Department's involvement in the battle against drugs. He said that, in addition to opioids, cocaine and metamphetamines have been encountered lately and that this is a problem for the police because "meth" users tend to be more aggressive and violent than users of other drugs. He added that the unprecedented and absolutely shocking amounts of drugs flowing into the United States is definitely related to the need for greater security at the border with Mexico and that this issue must be addressed. He reported that his Department's Street Crimes Unit had made three major seizures of drugs in the past 4-5 months and that he wanted to make all of his officers more expert with respect to drugs and to continue to pursue drug education in addition to enforcement in LEH. He said that two of his other concerns as President of the State Chiefs this year have been (1) providing officers throughout the state with greater access to less lethal devices for use in confrontations and (2) pursuing greater diversity in the hiring of new officers. He then once again explained that, as the emergency call system now works, if you dial 911 you reach a dispatcher at the county level and your call is then shipped back to a local dispatcher, while if you instead call 609-296-3666 then dial 100 you will reach his Department in only about 30 seconds and thereby save what can be crucial time in an emergency. He added that you can also ask general questions when you call the local number but are discouraged from calling 911 to do so. He then said that the growth of trees up to the roof line of the Bass River fire tower has interfered with effective use of the tower and that he was advocating that the Fire Service cut trees down, but that this has been met with opposition from some people concerned about preservation of the forest. He added that use of cameras placed higher than the tower to keep an eye out for fires has not been effective. Ken Miller, Chair of the Board, reported that an encampment of homeless people was back in the woods near the senior community of Cranberry Creek and the Chief said consideration was being given to what could be done about this.

The next speaker was Tim Brewin, the Manager of the Little Egg Harbor Walmart Supercenter, who reported on several things that have been happening with the store. First, he said that there is now a pickup tower there that robotically dispenses items purchased online and that can hold a maximum of 300 items. When you place an order, you are provided with a barcode, and if you present it for scanning at the tower the item you ordered is delivered to you automatically from the tower in less than a minute. He said there is also a new free pickup service at the left side of the back of the building for groceries ordered online. When you place your order you can reserve a pickup time and when you pick up your groceries you do not even have to get out of your car; employees will load up the car for you. He said that on the previous day 72 grocery orders were picked up in this way. He then turned to charitable giving by Walmart and reported

that about \$6,000 in gift cards had been donated to local organizations during the past year and about \$9,000 in grant money had been given to local organizations during the past few years. Also, \$35,000-\$40,000 in food bank items had been donated and food banks are able to place bulk orders for items that they do not otherwise receive by donation. In addition, Walmart employees have participated in the cleanup of Lake Absegami in the Bass River State Forest, fundraising walks and similar charitable events. Finally, he reported that, during this summer, solar panels will be placed on the roof of the store for greater energy efficiency.

Board Vice Chair Ann Mikos then said that the annual LEH Senior Expo will take place on May 1 from 9 AM to noon at the LEH Community Center and police drones will be demonstrated there.

The next meeting of the Senior Advisory Board will be on Monday, March 25, 2019 at 10 AM at the Harbor Bay Clubhouses. All seniors are welcome and urged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 AM.

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