

MINUTES OF THE MAY 20, 2019 SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Chairman Ken Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM at the Tall Timbers 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, Diane Coyle, Linda Cicco, Maryann O'Neill and Richard Dutton. Liaison, Township Mayor Barbara Jo Crea, was also in attendance.

Minutes from the April 29, 2019 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 fraud issues. He said that perpetrators of email fraud are constantly becoming more creative and typically send out an enormous volume of "phishing" emails in the hope of obtaining personal information, account numbers and passwords or cash payments from even a minute number of gullible recipients. He said that he had himself received a clearly fraudulent email only the previous evening and that it is usually possible to recognize such emails immediately because they originate in places such as West Africa and usually are written in an odd and stilted syntax. He urged those present to be wary if contacted by a stranger who says that you have won money in a lottery you did not enter or have been left money by a relative you did not know existed, and to speak with your neighbors about such scams, as everyone needs to be informed. He then reported that there has recently been an increase in activity by motorcycle gangs in central New Jersey dealing drugs, especially methamphetamines, and that this is related to the southern border with Mexico being so porous so that drugs of all kinds are being imported, including cocaine; heroin is no longer "the sole big fish". He then once again said that there have been problems in the community because of the mass release of mentally disturbed people into group homes without notice. He also noted that he was very much in favor of community policing and that conversations were being held by members of his Department with people throughout the community. He then reported on an incident the week before involving hateful graffiti at a local school and said that the offensive remarks were immediately covered, an investigation followed and arrests were made, and there was no serious intent to harm anyone. A member of the audience then related that a woman in her community had had a stroke at home and lost time dragging herself to the telephone to call 911, and this could have been prevented if she had had a "Life Alert" button or similar device to summon emergency help following her fall. Finally, the Chief said that the proposed move of the Department's shooting range to a new location off Stafford Forge Road was still pending.

The next speakers were Dr. Melissa McCoolley, the Superintendent of Schools for the Little Egg Harbor Township School District and the Pinelands Regional School District, and three of her colleagues. Dr. McCoolley said that, pursuant to shared services, half of her salary is paid by each district, and this sort of thing is now commonly done to save money. She reported that four full-time teaching positions were cut in Pinelands this year and money is also saved by using volunteers in the schools, typically parents who assist by, for example, signing students in and out of bathrooms. She added that two current problems in the schools are vaping and vandalism. Each of her colleagues then spoke in turn, reporting that a large portion of school expenditures is in the area of special education because of the students' extra needs; financial constraints were also affecting science, technology and mathematics programs; and a Pinelands Alumni and Friends Foundation has been formed to raise funds for the system. They also said that a goal is

to involve members of the community in schools as volunteers and mentors and invited those present to visit the school system websites lehsd.org and pinelandsregional.org. Dr. McCooley closed by reporting that construction at the high school, which has been closed for this year, was proceeding according to schedule and it will be reopened on time for the next school year.

The next speaker was Carol Evans of the LEH Public Works Department, who provided some updated information about recycling. She said that because plastic bags are a problem the Township is now giving out reusable bags for residents to use instead and that if you bring five plastic bags either to the Recycling Center or Town Hall you will be given one of the reusable bags in exchange for them. She also urged residents to include in their recycling only the types of items listed on the Township's recyclables cards, which can also be obtained at the Recycling Center or Town Hall. Finally, she noted that even recyclable plastics are no longer being accepted by certain countries overseas to which they have been sent in the past and it is not yet clear what adjustments to our recycling may have to be made as a result.

The next meeting of the Senior Advisory Board will be on Monday, June 24, 2019 at 10 AM at Town Hall, 665 Radio Road. All seniors are welcome and urged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:25 AM.

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