

MINUTES OF THE JULY 29, 2019 SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

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

Minutes from the June 24, 2019 meeting, 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 began by observing that the number of residents in LEH, normally a little more than 20,000, increases by about 50% during the summer months and that this change affects his Department's operations. He then reported that there had been some significant drug arrests in LEH during the past year and that the Street Crimes Unit had recently closed down a budding cocaine operation and a 300-bag heroin operation. He noted that when drug rings operate in residential areas it has a significant adverse effect on the quality of the lives of nearby residents and he once again encouraged those present not to hesitate to contact his Department if they notice anything that suggests that there may be drug manufacturing or sales or other criminal activity taking place in their communities. He then reported that the response time to 911 calls in LEH is one of the best in the state and, finally, that he was encouraged about potential progress with regard to the long-pending move of his Department's shooting range from its current location off Route 9 opposite Walmart.

The next speaker was James Vaccaro, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Manasquan Bank, which has taken over the former Sun Bank site on Route 9 near Oak Lane in LEH, on the same side of the street as the Rite Aid Pharmacy. He said that this is the twelfth branch of his bank to be opened and that it is a full-service bank that makes both consumer and commercial loans, is mutually rather than publicly owned, and regards itself as a community bank that emphasizes engagement with its customers and is concerned with providing quality products and services. He added that it has over \$1.6 billion in assets and ranks in the top 10% of banks in the country. With him were Cathy Franzoni, the Chief Operating Officer of the Bank, and Danielle Roselli, the Manager of the new LEH branch, which is expected to be operational shortly.

The next speaker was a social worker from Journey Hospice, a non-profit entity based in Egg Harbor Township that visits people needing end-of-life care in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and their own residences. As most of its current clients are in Cape May County and its representatives do not travel to Ocean County at present, the purpose of her coming to speak was apparently just to acquaint those present with hospice care and to invite volunteers to participate in Journey Hospice's activities, which include such things as making a "memory bear" for the family of a deceased person using items associated with the deceased such as articles of his or her clothing.

The final speaker was Barry Steinmetz, Coordinator of Ocean County Mentoring, which offers seniors the opportunity to serve as volunteer mentors of local elementary school students who have been identified as needing extra attention. Mentors generally spend about an hour per week with each such student and the Frog Pond, Tuckerton and Eagleswood elementary schools all

participate in the program. Mentors are not expected to tutor children but instead typically play games or do crafts with them, build a rapport and offer good, solid adult advice. Sometimes a mentor will continue to meet with the same child for two or three years until he or she graduates from elementary school. Rev. Steinmetz said that there are now about 160 people involved in the program and it was recently expanded into four more schools in Barnegat. Anyone interested in becoming a mentor should contact him at 732-288-7723 to obtain an application.

Mayor Crea then reported that she has been holding “Meet the Mayor” programs on the third Tuesday of the month and the next one is scheduled for August 20 at 7:00 PM at the LEH branch of the Ocean County Library. She also mentioned once again that there is a dropoff box to dispose of prescription drugs at the office of the Police Department at Town Hall and noted that it is important for newcomers and visitors to LEH to learn the rules with regard to recycling.

Board member Maryann O’Neill then reported on the increase in the amount of the New Jersey income tax exemption for veterans from \$3,000 to \$6,000 per year.

There will be no meeting of the Senior Advisory Board in August. The next meeting of the Board will be on Monday, September 30, 2019 at the Harbor Bay clubhouse. All seniors are welcome and urged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 AM.

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