

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 30, 2019 SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

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

Minutes from the July 29, 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 reporting that a car burglar had been apprehended the night before on Cherrywood Drive. He said that such burglars are typically drug addicts and repeat offenders, and he urged everyone to keep his or her car doors locked and to notify his Department immediately of any stranger who is behaving suspiciously or of anything else that appears out of the ordinary and may involve criminal activity. He then reported once again on his Department's participation in the On P.O.I.N.T. (Proactive Outreach In Needs and Treatment) Program, which steps in, usually after police are called to a resident's home, to advocate for residents who often cannot advocate for themselves in order to receive assistance they need from other agencies with, for example, managing finances or buying food. He said that there has been, on average, about one referral to the program per week and about 30-40% of those referred benefit from the referral, but in some cases the referral is unsuccessful because people sometimes resist help. He then turned to the issue of immigration and emphasized the importance of police departments establishing and maintaining a good relationship with immigrant communities so that immigrants are not afraid to report crimes or provide information in order to help solve them. He then once more reported that his Department is still pursuing low-level drug dealers in LEH and that there has been a re-emergence of methamphetamines connected with outlaw motorcycle gangs. He said that the "Blue Heart" program, in which addicts can walk into a police station on a given day each week and seek treatment for drug addiction, has been re-named the "Blue Hope" program and has often been successful, but historically an overwhelming percentage of addicts are not permanently cured. One audience member then suggested that residents remove loose garage door remote control devices from their cars at night because someone who breaks a window and enters a car could use the remote to get access first to the garage and from the garage to the resident's house.

The next speaker was State Assemblyman Brian Rumpf, who came in his capacity as Director of Administration for the Ocean County Health Department. He began by reporting that free health screening was available in the adjoining room and representatives of the Health Department were on hand to test blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol and blood oxygen level as well as to provide health education information. He said that a portion of one's real estate taxes is allocated to the Health Department and he discussed a number of issues with which the Department has been concerned. One was the outbreak of measles, with over thirty cases, concentrated in Lakewood and resulting from lack of vaccinations. Another has been drug addiction, and in this regard he said that one of the challenges to his Department has been to determine how to extend 2 or 3 weeks of rehabilitation into a lifetime program. He then noted that although his Department has some funds to get people into treatment, bail reform has interfered with the opportunity to address the addiction of individuals during the short jail

sentences they would formerly have been given. On the subject of legalization of recreational marijuana, he said he is opposed to it, despite the revenue it is expected to produce, because of the new problems for police departments and others that would inevitably result. He then reported that in the environmental area his Department has responsibility for all well and septic installations in the County and performs annual inspections of restaurants and convenience stores, the emphasis being placed not on the collection of fines but on the provision of education and training. He said his Department administers a WIC Grant from the federal government to help mothers and children up to age 5 and insure that they receive adequate nutrition, and Ocean County's WIC program is the largest in the State, with about 20,000 people receiving benefits. He added that his Department also administers an Early Intervention Grant to benefit disabled children up to three years old who need extra help and that there are 45 social workers involved and 1,850 families who benefit from the Grant. There are also two animal shelters run by his Department, one at the Stafford Industrial Park and one in Jackson, at which a total of 300 dogs and cats are waiting to be adopted. Volunteers are invited to assist by, for example, visiting and walking dogs. He then turned to the subject of flu shots and urged everyone to obtain one. He said that about 60% of residents of the County currently get vaccinated on an annual basis and that there is a special vaccine for those over 65 years of age which should be administered by the end of October. He then turned to the subject of vaping and said it was "crisis #2" after opioids, it sometimes involves smoking mixtures including marijuana as well as nicotine, it leads to other addictions and it must be headed off by starting education about it at an earlier and earlier age. On the subject of cannabidiol (CBD), an extract from the marijuana plant that is used by some to treat insomnia, anxiety and other ailments, he said that it is not safe to use unless purchased through reputable sources and has sometimes been found to include contaminants such as heavy metals.

The next speakers were Danielle Roselli, the Branch Manager, and Amy Gorasimowicz, of the new branch of Manasquan Bank on Route 9 near Oak Lane in LEH. They said that the Bank is a small community bank with fourteen branches that emphasizes engagement with its customers and has been around for a long time. The Bank plans to hold a "grand opening week" from October 15th through 19th.

LEH Mayor Barbara Jo Crea then reported that Great Bay Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is looking for volunteers. To become involved, one does not have to be an emergency medical technician (EMT); one might, for example, volunteer as an ambulance driver. She added that LEH Citizens on Patrol is also looking for volunteers to assist the Police Department by patrolling neighborhoods in vehicles and noting and reporting what they see.

The next meeting of the Board will be on Monday, October 28, 2019 at the Cranberry Creek clubhouse. All seniors are welcome and urged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:15 AM.

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