

MINUTES OF THE MAY 21, 2018 SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Chairman Ken Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM at the Park Plaza Apartments, 150 Mathistown Road.

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, Fran Zimmer, Richard Dutton and Maryann O'Neill (alternate). Liaison, Deputy Mayor Barbara Jo Crea, was also in attendance.

Minutes from the April 30, 2018 meeting, having been read, were approved by the Board.

Chief Richard J. Buzby, Jr. of the Little Egg Harbor ("LEH") Police Department was unable to attend and Capt. James Hawkins spoke on behalf of the Department instead. He reported first about an incident the previous week at a home on Maplewood Drive. Although a man was stabbed to death, this resulted from an altercation at the home and there was never any danger to the neighboring community. Capt. Hawkins then spoke briefly about two programs which have been described by Chief Buzby at previous meetings of the Senior Board, the On P.O.I.N.T. (Protective Outreach in Needs and Treatment) Program, which offers assistance to the mentally ill and incapacitated and can provide a safety net for the elderly, and 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. Finally, he mentioned the drop box at Town Hall for safe disposal of unwanted medicines.

The next speaker was Janice Schalek of Interfaith Health & Support Services of Southern Ocean County, a Section 501(c)(3) charitable organization that serves seniors by providing transportation to medical appointments, assisting with grocery shopping, visiting the homebound, making reassuring telephone calls and providing respite for dementia patients' caregivers and families. All these services are offered free of charge. Interfaith is located at 1140 Route 72 West in Manahawkin and its telephone number is 609-978-3839.

Dawn Heyson of the LEH Branch of the Ocean County Public Library then spoke about upcoming programs at the Branch in June and again mentioned the great variety of newspapers, both current and historical, that can be accessed online from one's home free of charge through the library's website (theoceancountylibrary.org) by searching on the website using the word "newspapers", selecting the appropriate newspaper collection and entering the multi-digit number on the back of your library card to gain access.

Melanie Crawford of Seacrest Village then spoke briefly about that facility and emphasized that it is not only a nursing home but offers many services including rehabilitation and adult daytime care.

Deputy Mayor Barbara Jo Crea then read a letter which was being sent to Moira Modica thanking her for her service as a member of the Board, urged everyone present to keep up to date with events in LEH using the township's leht.com website and mentioned that a branch of Chase Bank will be going into the space just north of Walmart on Route 9 and an Auto Zone store will go in next to Mavis Discount Tire in front of the Acme Supermarket, also on Route 9.

Finally, Mary Ann O'Neill, who was welcomed as a new alternate member of the Board, spoke about the AARP Free Tax Preparation Program, in which she participates and in which trained volunteers assist others (not exclusively seniors) with the preparation and filing (in most cases electronically) of their individual income tax returns.

The next meeting of the Senior Advisory Board will be on Monday, June 25 at 10 AM at the Sea Oaks clubhouse, 99 Golf View Drive. All seniors are welcome and urged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:45 AM.

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