

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 29, 2018 SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Chairman Ken Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM at the Courtroom at Town Hall, 665 Radio 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, Nancy Cotter, Diane Coyle, Betty Vivona, Fran Zimmer, Rocco Competello and Richard Dutton. Liaison, Deputy Mayor Barbara Jo Crea was also in attendance.

Minutes from the November 27, 2017 meeting, having been read, were approved by the Board.

The first speaker was Chief Richard J. Buzby, Jr. of the LEH Police Department. He began by reporting that the onsite visit in connection with his Department's obtaining accreditation through a program of the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police had taken place on January 8 and that the Department had been recommended for full accreditation, with no limitations. He said that the audit that had been conducted was "100% clean" and that the Department had been praised as a model for other Departments to follow. He commended the LEH Department of Public Works for its contributions in readying the building for inspection. He then noted that there had recently been two more major seizures of illicit drugs and that drug dealing in other areas had been stopped with the involvement of Ocean County Prosecutor Joseph Coronato. He added that there had also recently been two robberies in which one drug dealer robbed another, which he regarded as a sign that drug dealers are falling upon hard times. He then said that he had been invited to and would participate with others at a conference on the subject of drugs and law enforcement at Seton Hall.

The Chief then mentioned several local programs that he regarded as beneficial to the community. The first is the Blue Heart program under which drug addicts can come to a police station and obtain admission to a treatment facility without penalty. He said that County Prosecutor Coronato had been able to arrange for treatment for such addicts at little or no cost to them. He further observed that sometimes medical patients have been overmedicated and have become addicted to drugs through no fault of their own. He then said that a second good program is the On P.O.I.N.T. (Protective Outreach in Needs and Treatment) program, which can provide a safety net for the elderly. He told the story of an unfortunate old woman who, when her husband died, sold their car to pay for his funeral and found herself unable to function on her own. Now, through the program, she is being helped, and even individual police officers and firefighters have been made aware of her situation and are looking in on her. A third valuable program, he said, is NIXLE, which allows government agencies to send advisories, alerts and community notices to residents. One such alert sent out by his Department by email the previous week had told LEH residents about a suspicious person dressed in dark clothes and carrying a pillowcase--a good indicator of intent to commit a burglary--who was spotted looking into windows of residences in West Tuckerton. Many residents responded with tips.

Finally, the Chief was once again asked about the status of the relocation of the police shooting range to the proposed new site off Stafford Forge Road but he had nothing new to report and was not as optimistic about progress being made anytime soon as he had been at other recent meetings.

The second speaker was Dawn Heyson, the new Branch Manager of the LEH Branch of the Ocean County Library. She spoke about programs scheduled at the Branch during February and also reported that a number of data bases are available online that enable a library cardholder to access current, recent and even historical newspapers without a subscription and at no cost. “America’s Newspapers”, for example, includes the Newark Star-Ledger, the Record, the Daily News, the New York Post, the Philadelphia Inquirer and the Press of Atlantic City, and “Proquest Online” includes the Asbury Park Press, the New York Times and the Washington Post.

Finally, the Township Committee Liaison, Deputy Mayor Barbara Jo Crea, spoke about a Heart Healthy Event (February being “Heart Health Month”) sponsored by the Senior Advisory Board that will be held at the LEH Community Center on February 28 from 10 AM to 1 PM and will include speakers from Southern Ocean Medical Center, a nutritionist, a cardiologist and a physical therapist, blood pressure and cholesterol screenings and a drop box for unwanted prescription drugs.

The next meeting of the Board will take place on Monday, February 26, 2018 at 10:00 AM at the Mystic Shores Clubhouse, 204 Shenandoah Drive. All seniors are welcome and urged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:40 AM.

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