

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 30, 2018 SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Chairman Ken Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM at the Cranberry Creek Clubhouse.

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, John Ways, Nancy Cotter, Fran Zimmer, Diane Coyle, Rocco Competello and Richard Dutton. Liaison, Deputy Mayor Barbara Jo Crea, was also in attendance.

Minutes from the March 26, 2018 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 the On P.O.I.N.T. (Protective Outreach in Needs and Treatment) program, which can provide a safety net for the elderly and which he said he finds impressive. He then reiterated that telephone scamming of seniors continues to be a problem and a call from someone claiming to be from the Internal Revenue Service and threatening dire consequences because of unpaid taxes is always fraudulent. He then turned to the drug problem in LEH and reported that for 2017 Ocean County was the only county in the state that had a reduction in drug deaths and in administrations of the lifesaving drug Narcan in overdose cases. He added that he had been invited to Washington, D.C. again, this time to testify before the U.S. Senate about the drug problem, and he noted that the role of his Department has evolved beyond traditional police work to include greater involvement in the community and understanding and addressing complex social issues. He then once again reported that shoplifting and property crimes, which are typically committed by addicts, are down and said that he hoped that Governor Murphy would keep Ocean County Prosecutor Joseph Coronato in office because of his wonderful track record with respect to drug issues. Finally, in response to a question from the audience, he said that he had nothing new to report with regard to the status of the long-pending relocation of the Police Department shooting range.

The next speaker was Ocean County Freeholder Virginia ("Ginny") Haines. She began by introducing herself and said that she grew up in Lakewood and now lives in Toms River and that her family has lived in Ocean County for many generations. She then said that her special assignment as Freeholder is to be Chairwoman for Human Services for the County and that she formerly served in the State Legislature and as Executive Director of the State Lottery. She distributed to everyone present a bag containing a whole sheaf of informational and reference items relating to services offered by the County, including a copy of the 2018 County Government Directory, a Guide to Parks and Recreation Programs, Events and Classes, a brochure titled "Out & About Ocean County" containing a calendar of events during Spring 2018 from the County Culture and Heritage Commission and a pocket guide and newsletter about senior services offered in the County. She then highlighted a number of things in these materials, such as the Ocean Ride bus system that is available to provide seniors with transportation to doctors' visits or therapy appointments, the 27 parks in the County, one in almost every town, including over 4,000 acres, the 20,000+ preserved acres and the more than 620 miles of County roads. She also mentioned an additional scam sometimes perpetrated upon seniors with memory issues, in which a contractor appears at the door and claims that the senior already approved that certain work be done and convinces the senior that he or she did approve such work but must have forgotten. She said that Ocean County is one of only two counties in the

state with a triple A bond rating; that Meals on Wheels is going to have a newer and more complete facility in Manahawkin; and that Ocean County College now includes a branch of Kean University right on its campus so that it is possible for a student to continue his or her education for an additional two years without leaving Toms River. Then, in response to questions, she said that both Ocean County and she personally are opposed to the legalization of marijuana in the State for recreational purposes, because the receipt of substantial revenue from taxation of marijuana sales will be offset by social problems and other jurisdictions have seen a significant increase in accidents involving impaired drivers after such legalization. In this regard, she reported that several New Jersey towns have already passed resolutions that they will not permit recreational marijuana even if the State passes a law to the contrary. Finally, she said that State Lottery proceeds are now used not only for education but have been channeled into pensions and some other programs, and that it is casino proceeds that benefit senior programs.

Chairman Ken Miller then reported that Maryann O'Neill of Harbor Bay had volunteered to fill a vacancy as alternate member of the Board.

Deputy Mayor Barbara Jo Crea, the Liaison from the Township Committee to the Board, then read a Proclamation that May is "Older Americans Month" and encouraged those present to talk to elderly friends and relatives to hear their stories, citing a very interesting conversation she recently had with her own aunt, age 87.

The next meeting of the Board will take place on Monday, May 21, 2018 at 10:00 AM at the Park Plaza Apartments, 150 Mathistown Road. All seniors are welcome and urged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:05 AM.

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