

MINUTES OF THE MAY 19, 2025 SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Chairman Ken Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM at the Harbor 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, Chairman, Linda Cicco, Nancy Cotter, Barbara Jo Crea, Richard Dutton, Donna O'Brien and Lisa Stevens.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Board on April 28, 2025 were then approved by motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried.

The first speaker was Chief James Hawkins of the Little Egg Harbor ("LEH") Police Department. He once again spoke about senior scams and said that there has been a recent rash of telephone calls falsely claiming to be from a police or sheriff's benevolent organization and seeking contributions. These are not legitimate calls because such organizations do not solicit by telephone but rather mail requests for support. There also continue to be calls and emails falsely claiming to be from a relative who has been injured or arrested and requesting an immediate emergency transfer of cash. If you receive such a call, do not act rashly out of emotion but take the time first to ascertain whether the request is a genuine one (It will essentially always not be). Another current scam involves requests falsely claiming to be from E-Z Pass requesting an allegedly overdue payment that must be made immediately to avoid a penalty. The Chief then noted, however, that there is a legitimate non-profit organization named Sea Change that sends its representatives door to door in LEH to educate people about drugs, make Narcan available and urge proper disposal of extra supplies of prescription medications. The representatives have information about which addresses have registered for "no-knock" status and have also been instructed to observe "no solicitation" signs and stickers. The Chief further reported that there continue to be car burglaries, typically from unlocked cars and especially in the Mystic neighborhood, and that residents should accordingly keep their cars locked and not leave anything valuable visible inside. Finally, he said that the LEH Memorial Day parade will be held on May 26 and will start at St. Theresa's Church at 10:00 AM.

The second speaker was Heather deJong of Meals on Wheels of Ocean County, who reported that her organization was founded over fifty years ago as an onsite meals program at St. Andrew United Methodist Church in Toms River. It developed into a program geared toward the homebound and after receiving an early grant of \$130,000, "took off" and has been growing continuously ever since. Its purpose is to keep people safe and well-nourished at home and it served over 260,000 meals last year, making deliveries five days per week that also include a wellness and safety check and a friendly smile. There is currently a waiting list of about a month to begin receiving deliveries. Meals on Wheels now also has a Community Café on Tuesdays at the LEH Senior Center for seniors who are able to come to it. Advance signup is necessary, there is a charge of \$3 per meal and Ocean Ride can provide transportation. A similar café in Manahawkin provides meals five days per week. Ms. deJong then provided a form of letter for seniors to sign and send to their congressman's office asking that the Older Americans Act be kept intact; it is also available, for anyone interested to download, sign and submit, on the Meals on Wheels of Ocean County's website (www.csimow.org) in the "Advocacy" section. She also distributed copies of an Ocean County Senior Services ("OCSS") Area Plan Needs Assessment Survey which can also be completed by anyone interested on the OCSS website (www.co.ocean.nj.us/OC/SeniorServices/).

The third speaker was Kathy Tucker, LEH Recreation Director, who provided some information and upcoming dates: The LEH community-wide garage sale will be held on July 19 and 20 from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM and participation is free, but participants should call 609-296-7241 x230 (Kelly) to sign up; arts and crafts fairs are planned for June 28, September 13 and November 8 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Community Center; assistance will continue to be provided to seniors in completing Form PAS-1 to apply for three possible types of property tax relief on Wednesdays in May (except May 28) and June from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at Town Hall, 665

Radio Road; and on August 21, in honor of National Senior Citizens Day, a free ice cream social will be held at the Community Center.

The next meeting of the Senior Advisory Board will be on Monday, June 30, 2025 at 10:00 AM at the Sunrise Bay Clubhouse. All seniors are welcome and urged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:00 AM.

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