

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 29, 2025 SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Chairman Ken Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM at the Mystic Shores 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, John Edmunds, Rosemarie Martelli and Donna O'Brien. Township Committee Liaison and Mayor Dan Maxwell was also present.

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

The first speaker was Little Egg Harbor ("LEH") Tax Collector Dayna Wilson, who made the important announcement that there had been an error in the instructions for the form that must be filed by October 31 in order for seniors to claim property tax benefits under three State of New Jersey programs, and as a result some seniors may have failed to claim benefits to which they are entitled because, in following the incorrect instructions, they determined that they were ineligible based on their 2023 income. The form containing the incorrect instructions, 2024 Form PAS-1, was mailed to all LEH seniors and is to be filed to claim benefits under the Property Tax Reimbursement (Senior Freeze), ANCHOR, and Stay NJ programs. Ms. Wilson said that if you qualified for tax relief in 2024, you should file this form without regard to your 2023 status. Her office is providing assistance to filers in completing the form in the courtroom in the LEH Town Hall at 665 Radio Road on Wednesdays from 12 to 2 PM all through October. Online filing is available at propertytaxrelief.nj.gov.

The second speaker was LEH Police Chief James Hawkins, who first urged everyone to have an evacuation plan in the event of a hurricane, fire or other disaster and not to wait until the last minute to leave once it is clear that evacuation will be necessary, because evacuation routes will quickly become very congested. Then, on the subject of senior fraud, he advised everyone not to respond quickly or rashly if you receive a telephone call, email or text claiming that there is an emergency and you must send money immediately to help a family member or friend; in almost all cases, if you think it through, you will realize that it is a scam. He then repeated that a new scam, which has been successfully worked on seniors in a few cases, involves a call from someone claiming to be an employee of EZ-Pass or an officer from the Ocean County Sheriff's Department asserting that the recipient owes money for an unpaid toll, fine or judgment and asking that he or she stay on the line while the caller walks him or her through the purchase of Bitcoin at a kiosk to pay the amount that is allegedly due. Other scammers call with the goal of merely recording your voice saying your name and answering "yes" to a question so that they can claim that you consented to a purchase or a payment for a service. Fraudulent calls can be reported to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center online at www.ic3.gov. Board Chair Ken Miller then reiterated his advice that you never pick up a telephone call unless you recognize the caller's name; any legitimate caller will leave a message.

The next speaker was Melissa McCooley, Superintendent of the Pinelands Regional School District, who began by expressing her gratitude to retiree volunteers, who have helped, for example, to build greenhouses for students' use and to teach food preparation to students. She then said that the District has about 1,600 students in grades 7-12, some of whom attend locally for half days and receive vocational training for the balance of the day in subjects such as cosmetology, HVAC and electrical work in Toms River, while others are taught auto repair, for example, right in LEH. She added that she was proud of the District's drama productions and that a Harry Potter show is planned for late November. She then reported that there is an Adult Community School in the District at which adult members of the community can learn, for example, woodworking or gardening, and that National Honor Society students have been sent out to help community residents with things like replacing air conditioning filters and moving wood. She said that there will be a golf fundraising event in the spring at

Atlantis and Cuisine on the Green. Finally, she urged everyone to visit the District's website at www.pinelandsregional.org for information about all such activities and events and the District in general.

The next speaker was Carol Evans of the LEH Department of Public Works, who spoke once again about recycling. She reiterated that no plastic bags should be put in recycling bins as they get caught in the machinery, causing it to shut down, and that non-recyclable materials should not be put in the bins: in one case someone put a bowling ball in a bin, and in another someone put in saw blades that broke a conveyor, causing \$25,000 in damage. She said that the plastic cylindrical containers for prescription pills should also not be included in recycling regardless of the numerical code on them; only plastic containers which are narrower at the top and wider at the bottom should be recycled. Finally, she reported that a shredding truck will be available at the Sports Complex on Saturday, October 18 from 9 AM until noon.

The next speaker was Kathy Tucker, LEH Recreation Director, who provided a list of upcoming events. On Friday, October 17 there will be a "Trunk or Treat" from 6 to 8 PM at the Community Center which will include a trunk decoration contest, photo booths and a coloring station. She invited anyone interested in being a "trunk" (or, in the alternative, in providing a table with treats) to register; participants will be asked to supply 6-8 bags of candy. If you want to pick a theme, "KPop Demon Hunters" seems to be the most popular show at present with children. On October 25 there will be a free "Assistance Event" from 10 AM to 1 PM at the Community Center at which information will be provided about assistance with insurance, housing, food and similar subjects. There will also be a Mental Health and Wellness Expo at the Community Center on October 16, a harvest event at the High School on October 18 sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, and a free rabies clinic on November 1 from 10 AM to noon.

Board member Barbara Jo Crea then once again urged homeowners to avoid home title fraud by signing up for the Ocean County Clerk's Office's free property alert service to receive an email alert if any document is filed with that Office relating to your property. Board member Jack Edmunds then urged all those present to attend the LEH Planning Board meeting on Thursday, October 2 to register opposition to the pending construction of a new residential community along Center Street.

The next meeting of the Board will be on Monday, October 27, 2025 at 10:00 AM at the Cranberry Creek clubhouse. All seniors are welcome and urged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 AM.

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