

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 29, 2026 SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Chairman Ken Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM at the Sunrise 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, Lisa Stevens, Nancy Cotter, Richard Dutton, John Edmunds, Barbara Jo Crea, Rosemarie Martelli and Barbara Bonalski. Township Committee Liaison and Deputy Mayor Dan Maxwell was also present.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Board on May 18, 2026 were then approved by motion duly made, seconded and carried.

The first speaker was Maria LaFace, the Director of the Ocean County Office of Senior Services. She said that her office receives federal funds and distributes them to county programs for seniors and that its goal is to help seniors stay at home rather than in a nursing home. She added that all of her staff members are qualified Medicare advisors and that her office has a home repair and modification program that assists seniors with things such as the installation of grab bars and ramps to adapt their homes to their safety needs. She then noted that one of her purposes in coming to today's meeting was to request the help of audience members and their friends and neighbors in advocating with respect to pending issues affecting seniors. She said that she monitors the funding and expenditure of federal dollars for senior programs and that a bill benefiting older adults had been passed by the House and it is now necessary to convince the Senate also to increase funds. She had with her materials containing form language that could be used by audience members in letters they write to our Senators. She then reported that her office was monitoring similar issues at the state level such as cuts in prescription assistance, and that the nursing home lobby was seeking to have the state legislature take \$100 million allocated for Meals on Wheels and similar programs and transfer it to nursing homes which, she said, she considers an outrageous proposal. Similarly, she said, a Casino Reserve Fund now pays for some senior programs and a pending bill would redirect some of these funds to rehabilitate Atlantic City. She then noted that at the county level, a multi-sector plan on aging had determined that the top needs for seniors were social connection and transportation. She added that audience members might also want to contact the state Board of Public Utilities to object to currently very high delivery charges for gas. She said that seniors can obtain information about advocacy opportunities and samples of language to use in letters by going to either the satellite office of her agency in the county building at the intersection of Routes 9 and 72 in Manahawkin or the main office in Toms River or by calling her office in Toms River at 732-929-2091 to speak with her and request that copies of the sample language be sent by email. There is also a newsletter seniors can sign up to receive and they can call 211 or visit nj211.com as an additional means of obtaining information about senior services that are available.

The second speaker was Pat Harmon of the Ocean County Health Department, who spoke about some of the programs currently offered by that Department: health screenings; a four-week diabetes education class offered locally as well as in Toms River; a medical nutrition therapy program that addresses conditions such as diabetes, gastrointestinal problems and kidney disease; and a free eye clinic in Toms River and Lakewood.

The third speaker was Kathy Tucker, Little Egg Harbor (LEH) Recreation Director, who provided some information and upcoming dates. Most important was the United States 250th anniversary event on Friday, July 3, from 5 to 8 PM at the Sports Complex, including musical performances, free burgers and hot dogs, a classic car show and cornhole. Also, the LEH community-wide garage sale will be held on July 18 and 19 from 9 AM to 6 PM and participation is free, but participants should call the Town Clerk's Office at 609-296-7241 to sign up; a National Night Out will be held on August 4 from 6 to 9 PM at Pinelands High School; and there will be a free rabies clinic on November 21 from 10 AM until noon at the LEH Community Center. The regularly scheduled events for seniors at the Senior Center at 641 Radio Road will also continue on the ongoing schedule: canasta every Monday from 11 AM to 3 PM, a senior lunch every Tuesday at 11:30 AM (registration

required), a senior game day on the fourth Thursday of every month (registration also required), and mah jongg every second, third, fourth and fifth Friday from 12:30 to 3 PM.

A member of the audience then reported on a new scam in which the caller poses as pastor of a local church (in this case St. Theresa's) and asks for financial help on an urgent basis. 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.

The next meeting of the Senior Advisory Board will be on Monday, July 27, 2026 at 10 AM at the Sea Oaks Clubhouse. All seniors are welcome and urged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11 AM.

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