

Little Egg Harbor Senior Citizens' Advisory Board Minutes

September 26, 2016

Chairperson Ann Mikos called the meeting to order in Tall Timbers Clubhouse at 10:00AM. A flag salute and a moment of silence for our military followed.

Roll call was taken. Committee members in attendance were: Ann Mikos, Diane Coyle, Richard Dutton, Ken Miller, Betty Vivona, Rocco Competello, John Ways, Moira Modica and Mayor Gene Kobryn.

Minutes from the August 29, 2016 meeting were read and approved by the committee.

LT. Bezak and Lt. Hart provided township updates. Chief Buzby was unable to attend. A bond ordinance has been approved by the Township Committee to upgrade computer and radio systems. It will be a positive step toward accreditation which will among other things, reduce insurance costs. The Fall Festival will take place on October 30, at the Little Egg recreation fields on Rte. 539 from 4 to 8 pm. The PD is helping to foster a sense of community and a more positive interaction with the residents. There will be numerous events; trunk or treat, bounce houses, a car show, maze, pumpkin patch, face painting, a hay ride, bon fires, simulated drunk driving by DART, and other vendors. The PD feels they have rid the town of most drug dealers, although there are still many users. Most of the drugs that show up in town come in from Philadelphia or Atlantic City. The LEHPD has linked up with the Atlantic City Task Force to share intelligence in an effort to curb drug trafficking. There was a discussion about the need for turning lanes at Rte.9N at Acme, and at Rte.9S at Otis Bog Road.

Our next guest speaker was Dr. Maryann Banks Interim Superintendent for Pinelands Regional School District. Three referendum questions will be presented to the voters on November 8. Referendum question 1 deals with much needed repairs to the High School. Critical structural damage has been discovered in the High School which affects the safety of the students, staff and community. Referendum question 2 and 3 are concerned with needed infrastructure repairs to both schools and the fields. The district became aware of the problem when the fire escape in the high school was enclosed. At that time a long range facility plan was developed. However road blocks were hit, Sandy struck and in 2010 the state took 3 million dollars of funding away. Recently a piece of rusted steel beam fell off the building. A forensic engineer was employed and he probed different areas of the brick façade. Moisture had seeped behind the façade causing the brick to fall off. Nine classrooms have been closed for the safety of the students. If repairs are not begun, the building will continue to deteriorate. Dr. Banks noted that both buildings are used by the community, as a shelter during Sandy and for community gatherings and continuing education programs. If the referendum is approved, 40% will be covered by the state. The district is retiring an existing debt and interest rates are low.

Our next speaker was Barry Steinmetz of Ocean County Mentoring Services. The mentoring program uses volunteers to work with children who need extra attention and may fall through the cracks. Volunteers are given a background check, fingerprinted and given 1 to 3 hours of training in their own homes. They will meet with the child once a week. If interested one must contact one of the local elementary schools or Barry Steinmetz at 732-288-7723.

Mayor Kobryn updated the committee on upcoming events. There will be a Community Clean up event on October 9th. Volunteers will meet at the Community Center at 9am. Bags, safety vests and gloves will be provided. The local roads will be cleaned. At 12 everyone will meet at the MICA club for food and raffles.

The next meeting will be at Cranberry Creek Clubhouse on October 31, 2016 at 10:00am. Guest speakers will be Chief Buzby, John Dorrity Ocean County Veterans Administration, SHIP Representative, Ocean County Senior Services, and Medicare Part D Services

The meeting adjourned at 11:30AM

Respectfully submitted

Moira Modica-Recording Secretary