

## **MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 30, 2024 SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

*Chairman Ken Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM at the Sea Oaks 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, Richard Dutton, Jack Edmunds, Rosemarie Martelli, Donna O'Brien and Lisa Stevens. Township Committee Liaison Dan Maxwell was also in attendance.*

*The minutes of the last meeting of the Board on July 29, 2024 were then approved by motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried.*

*The first speaker was Earl Sutton, the Executive Director of the Little Egg Harbor ("LEH") Municipal Utilities Authority (the "MUA"). He said that the cost of the recently-completed painting of the water tower adjoining Sea Oaks off of Frog Pond Road was approximately \$800,000 and that the New Jersey state bird, the eastern goldfinch, is represented on it. He added that the inside had to be blasted down to bare metal in connection with the renovation of the tower and that the work that was done is expected to last for 25-30 years. He then introduced Michael DeFrancia, the Superintendent and Licensed Operator of the MUA, who reported that the most recent required sampling to ascertain levels of certain substances in the LEH water supply found that the water met and exceeded all federal and state requirements. In response to a question from a member of the audience who said that there is sometimes either a chlorine-like or a sulfur-like smell in her tap water, he noted that a certain percent of chlorination is required by the state and some areas in LEH may sometimes experience more-noticeable-than-usual levels of chlorine depending upon their proximity to the pumping. As for the sulfur-like smell, he said that it almost always results from an issue with one's hot water heater and if a resident phones the MUA office about such a smell someone will be dispatched promptly to investigate it. He then reported that, fortunately, there is no lead in the LEH water system, and that the blue boxes around town are bacteria sampling stations from which 25 samples per month are required, half under high pressure and half under low.*

*The second speaker was Chief James Hawkins of the LEH Police Department. He said that consideration was being given to having a lockbox program which would provide police and other first responders access to some residents' homes in emergencies, and that in the meantime residents can put information into his Department's system about keys to their homes that are, for example, hidden or have been provided to neighbors. He added that it is important to provide to his Department information about any residents who are afflicted with Alzheimer's disease or dementia, as they are sometimes found wandering outside of their homes and are unable to respond rationally to questions. He then said, in response to a question from the audience, that LEH's Citizens on Patrol program is still active and that Sgt. Sean Crotty of his Department is the liaison to it. Another audience member then called attention to the problem with not only juveniles but also some adults speeding around in residential areas on electric bikes without helmets. He noted that helmets are required up to age 17 and that bikes that travel 28 m.p.h. or more have to be registered and insured like motorcycles and their riders must wear helmets. He added that his Department will make video clips that can be shown in schools about bike safety and has been rewarding children that do follow the rules by giving them ice cream coupons. As for the homeless in LEH, he said that his Department has been partnering with an entity named Just Believe to find out more about the causes of their homelessness and help them. One audience member reported that homeless individuals who live in the woods near Mystic Shores have come into that community and robbed residents. Finally, in response to a further question, the Chief said that he is unaware of any foreigners who have entered the country illegally and have come to LEH.*

*Board member Lisa Stevens then reported that October 15 is Pulaski Day and to commemorate Count and General Casimir Pulaski's and LEH's involvement in the American Revolution there will be a series of events at the Pulaski Monument on South Pulaski Boulevard south of Radio Road beginning at 10:00 AM on Saturday, October 19.*

*Township Committee Liaison Dan Maxwell then praised today's two excellent speakers.*

*The next meeting of the Senior Advisory Board will be on Monday, October 28, 2024 at 10:00 AM at the Mystic Shores Clubhouse. All seniors are welcome and urged to attend.*

*The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:35 AM.*

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