

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 27, 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, Richard Dutton, John Edmunds, Rosemarie Martelli, Donna O'Brien and Lisa Stevens. Township Committee Liaison and Mayor Dan Maxwell was also in attendance.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Board on November 25, 2024 were then approved by motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried.

The oath of office for reappointed Board members Richard Dutton and John Edmunds was then administered by Mayor Maxwell.

The first speaker was Chief James Hawkins of the Little Egg Harbor ("LEH") Police Department. He began by reporting that his Department had about 15,000 service calls during 2024, approximately the same number as in 2023. He then spoke about an email the Department had received that morning from a grateful resident, and he said that communications like this mean a lot to him and his officers. He then noted that his Department was running a "Citizens' Police Academy" for adults in the community with 22 participants, one night a week for 8 weeks, to learn what the Department does, and that CPR and NARCAN training are included. He added that P.A.L. youth programs are continuing and that the "cops and crayons" event at the LEH Library was so oversubscribed that it had to be expanded to two sessions.

He then reported that Det. Sgt. Schilling of his Department has been speaking in the community about fraud. One new scam involves a communication purporting to be from EZ Pass about money that is allegedly owed, and others claim to be from Amazon or UPS. He then once more gave the oft-repeated advice to click on the name of the sender of any questionable email to view its email address, which will often have no relationship to the name of the alleged source, and not to answer telephone calls from an unfamiliar number, as legitimate callers will leave a voicemail message if they have something to communicate to you.

Residents of Harbor Bay then reported that police control over all-terrain vehicles ("ATVs") riding in and adjacent to their community is not working effectively and that vandals have ripped down signs prohibiting them. The Chief urged residents to report incursions involving ATVs by calling his Department's non-emergency number, 609-296-3666 x100, as an alternative to calling the emergency number, 911. One audience member reported that Stafford Township reportedly has a statute relating to ATVs and Mayor Maxwell said that he will look into this; perhaps LEH can follow suit.

The next speaker was Maria LaFace, Director of Senior Services for Ocean County. She began by saying that she was happy to learn that former County Committeewoman Barbara Jo Crea had been appointed to the LEH Senior Advisory Board, because she is so knowledgeable about the County's senior services programs. Ms. LaFace then reported that what her office does is basically draw down federal dollars to fund programs for seniors (defined as residents over 60) and such residents are eligible for all of her office's programs at no charge.

She then noted that the Meals on Wheels program served about 300,000 meals in the County last year and that there are also adult day care and transportation programs, Medicare open enrollment assistance provided by unbiased counselors that can result in significant savings for seniors, and a "friendly visiting" program to go to the homes of the homebound and read to them, shop for them or just visit. She added that "food insecurity" is an issue among seniors in the County and there is a "congregate site" in LEH that brings people out of their homes for a meal every Tuesday. She also noted that her office provides assistance with the completion of

Anchor and Senior Freeze applications and follow-up with regard to them, and recently received a long-awaited mobile unit which is in essence a fully-functional office on wheels that can provide help with such things as property tax relief and Medicare right on site. Her telephone number is 732-929-2091 and she urged residents to call even with general questions (such as whether there are any entities that provide help with food costs), because there are many programs people are not aware of.

Mayor Maxwell then greeted all those present and thanked them for coming. It was an exceptionally well-attended meeting with approximately 80 seniors in the audience.

The next meeting of the Senior Advisory Board will be on Monday, February 24, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. at the Sea Oaks 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*