

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 24, 2025 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, Diane Coyle, Richard Dutton, John Edmunds, Rosemarie Martelli, Donna O'Brien and Lisa Stevens. Township Committee Liaisons Mayor Dan Maxwell and Ken Laney (in place of Ray Gormley) were also in attendance.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Board on January 27, 2025 were then approved by motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried.

The oath of office for new Board member Barbara Jo Crea was then administered by Mayor Maxwell.

The first speaker was Danielle Roselli of Manasquan Bank, who provided information about powers of attorney, bank accounts in joint name or payable on death, and other subjects relating to seniors, their property, and its disposition at the time of death. She said that powers of attorney are sometimes granted as to a specific bank account using a bank form and are sometimes more general in nature and can grant a wide range of actions that can be taken with respect to a person's property. General powers of attorney are called "durable" if they specifically state that they are to remain in effect even if the person who granted the power is no longer competent. Some banks may nevertheless request that a new power of attorney be provided if the power submitted to them is, say, over ten years old, or that an affidavit also be submitted that the old power is still in force and effect.

Two forms of bank account that may be opened to insure that the funds in them will be distributed in a certain way upon the owner's death outside of the owner's estate and regardless of what his or her will may say are joint accounts with right of survivorship and beneficiary or pay on death ("POD") accounts. One possible drawback for some with regard to a joint account is that the designated joint account holder will have access to the funds in the account immediately; this will not be the case with a POD account. An advantage of either a joint or a POD account is that no inheritance tax waiver needs to be obtained from the State of New Jersey before the funds in such an account may be paid out to the surviving joint tenant or designated POD beneficiary. One should periodically check to be sure that the options one selected with respect to the types of one's bank accounts still make sense in light of any changed circumstances, and one should also carefully select the type of account in opening any new one.

Board Chairman Ken Miller then emphasized the importance of keeping up to date on Little Egg Harbor's recycling requirements, and noted that one should never use plastic bags in one's recycling bin.

The next speaker was Darol Tucker of the Internal Revenue Service's Taxpayer Advocate Service ("TAS"), an independent organization within the IRS that renders help to and protects the rights of taxpayers who encounter problems in dealing with the IRS. The TAS will assign an advocate who will help the taxpayer on a one-on-one continuing basis until his or her problem is resolved. The service is free and by using it you can avoid the expense of hiring an attorney or a CPA to represent you; instead, you can go to the TAS directly. Mr. Tucker has eight advocates in his office and his direct telephone number is 609-858-7950, his email address is darol.tucker@irs.gov, his fax number is 877-263-1283 and his office is in Trenton; however, return calls from his office may come up on caller ID with an area code of 304 (West Virginia). He said he generally returns phone calls the same day and he regards himself as a truly independent advocate. He did caution, however, that, because of the recent wholesale layoffs of IRS employees, greater than usual delays can be expected in dealing with the IRS generally.

He also warned that a new scam involves the stealing and selling on the Internet to individuals in distant cities of IRS refund checks along with personal information about the payees so that they can be cashed. For this reason, he urged taxpayers to request in their returns direct deposit of their tax refunds. He also warned against unscrupulous and unqualified tax preparers and said that your preparer should always be willing to sign your tax return if he or she is legitimate.

Mayor Maxwell then spoke briefly and a few audience members took the opportunity to ask him questions in his additional role as a local funeral director. He said that in New Jersey funeral directors do notify the Social Security Administration of deaths of which they become aware, but he recommends that a surviving spouse always contact Social Security as well to request a surviving spouse's death benefit and because a surviving spouse is entitled to receive the larger of his or her and his or her deceased spouse's monthly Social Security benefit.

The next meeting of the Senior Advisory Board will be on Monday, March 31, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. at the Mystic Shores 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*