

To: The OBVTA Membership

From: Melindo A. Persi WAP

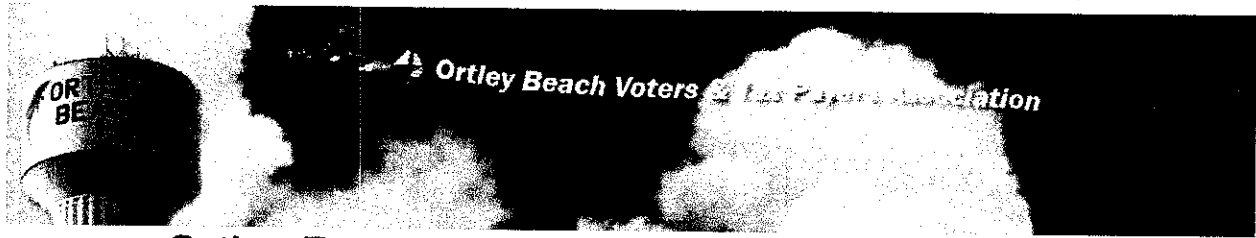
Date: April 18, 2021 5/10/21

Subject: THE 12% EVENT!

On Saturday, April 17, 2021 a profound travesty occurred when at the April Meeting of the Association, 12% of the membership approved sweeping changes to the bylaws that mirrored the events of the 1930's in Europe. With one fell swoop of a quick vote the Term Limit requirement for directors was erased assuring that the administration of the organization will now remain in perpetuity. Also erased was the process of the right of the voting membership to elect its officers. It was replaced with an inbred process wherein the officers will henceforth be elected by the Directors. This will ensure that the "Old Boy Network" will be preserved. Many lame excuses were presented by the current officers to justify the removal from of the right of the membership to decide the future of the organization. The proposals were advanced at a time when the majority of the membership was not in town or able to cast their vote or express their opinions. It was stated that the recommended changes were sent to all members and that they could have come to this first meeting of the year to cast their vote. (Lame excuse)

A motion was made by a member that the process be held for consideration by the full membership and that the vote be taken at the next meeting of the organization or by sending out a ballot for members to vote via mail. Both notions were soundly defeated by the 12% in attendance.

In most organizations, in order to modify the bylaws of an organization, two meetings are scheduled with ample time for all parties to express their views and debate the issues. Usually, the vote required is substantially more than the OBVTA 12% and is usually in the area of 2/3 of the entire membership. I propose that the Administration of the organization propose a revised process to modify the bylaws that is both transparent and equitable for the entire membership, not just the 12%. This process will ensure that the membership is totally involved in any changes to the bylaws and that sweeping changes will not occur over night without the proper membership input.



Ortley Beach Voters & Taxpayers Association
P.O. Box 223, Lavallette, NJ 08735
Website: OrtleyBeach.org

June 7, 2021

Mel Persi
1908 Baltimore Avenue
Ortley Beach, New Jersey 08751

Dear Mr. Persi,

On behalf of the Ortley Beach Voters and Taxpayers Association ("OBVTA") Board of Directors, thank you for your letter regarding the organization's process for reviewing, recommending and voting on changes to the OBVTA by-laws. Though we vehemently disagree with your conclusion that the changes made to the by-laws were done for the benefit of the Board's incumbency, and believe we scrupulously followed the established approval process, we appreciate your interest in the organization and its governance.

The OBVTA by-laws is the governing document for the organization. It is a living document that has been reviewed and changed throughout the years (most recently, on April 21, 2012, as approved by vote at a general membership meeting; on July 20, 2013, as approved by vote at a general membership meeting; and on October 18, 2014, as approved by vote at a general membership meeting). The document, which is permanently posted on the OBVTA website for any member's reference, has been closely followed, especially regarding the nomination and election of directors. However, during the last two years, at general membership meetings, the BOD has expressed its concern that the document no longer reflects current realities. A call for volunteers was made to the membership, and precisely one member stepped forward to offer his time to join a committee to review and revise the by-laws. That member proved instrumental in helping a BOD subcommittee identify parts of the by-laws in need of updating, and further provided advice, based on his legal background, on how to proceed. The BOD then worked further on the revisions, over several long meetings and multiple drafts, before approving the document that was immediately posted on the OBVTA website and emailed to all members for review.

The revised by-laws were then presented at the next general membership meeting, on April 17, 2021. A motion was made to adopt the changes. The motion was seconded. During discussion you made a motion to table the proposed changes. Your motion was seconded, discussed and a vote was taken. The motion failed. The motion to adopt the proposed by-law changes was then approved by the general membership in compliance with the organization's procedures.

In your letter, and during discussion at the May 15, 2021 membership meeting, you recommended changes to the process of revising the by-laws, including the manner in which changes are proposed to the general membership and the number of general membership votes required to adopt by-law revisions. Your input was constructive and valuable, and we thank you for it. We believe your suggestions were proposed in a spirit of furthering the objectives of the OBVTA which, of course, are also the BOD's objectives.

Officer Directors

Anthony Colucci, President
Paul Jeffrey, Vice President
Mary Ann Giordano, Secretary
Debbie Barton, Treasurer

At Large Directors

Joseph Cantalupo
Cathy Crisafulli
Joan Strathern
Toni Tomarazzo
Mike Wymbs

June 7, 2021

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The BOD is undertaking a fresh review of the organization's by-laws to evaluate how revisions are proposed and adopted. Any proposed changes identified during this review will again be included as part of the meeting agenda, and a copy of the proposed document will be circulated to the general membership by email and posted on the website prior to the general membership meeting in which such changes will be moved, discussed and voted on. Any changes proposed by the BOD, and approved by the membership, will then govern future by-law revisions.

As for now, we believe this matter to be settled, allowing the BOD to maintain its focus on the organization's mission: representing the interests of our members, improving the quality of life in Ortley Beach and advocating for the fair and equitable allocation of resources to our community.

Sincerely,

Anthony Colucci
President

Officer Directors

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Paul Jeffrey, Vice President
Mary Ann Giordano, Secretary
Debbie Barton, Treasurer

At Large Directors

Joseph Cantalupo
Cathy Crisafulli
Joan Strathern
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June 16, 2021

Ortley Beach Voters and Taxpayers Association

Attn: Mr. Anthony Colucci

PO Box 223

Lavallette, NJ 08735

Dear Mr. Colucci:

This is in response to your June 7,2021 letter concerning my comments about the 12% approval of the By-laws of the organization that took place at the last meeting of the organization. Your response did not address a suggestion that the Board would consider the recommended process for changing the by-laws. Specifically, I had written to the OBVTA on April 18 and again on May 18,2021 expressing my concern for the precipitous action taken by the Board to suggest a major change in the governance of the organization and the subsequent approval by 12% of the organization to change the by-laws.

I am deeply concerned that my letters were not shared with the membership. I assume that is the result of the Golden Rule that you have adopted, "He Who Has the Gold, Makes the Rule." How sad!!

It was not necessary for you to regurgitate the history of the organization concerning the practice of modifying the by-laws, since I had been an officer of the organization and am well aware of its history. What is the issue going forward, is the process for the organization to continue to precipitously change the by-laws and a suggested process for the review of the current practice.

I would like to once again request that my letters of April 18 and May 18 be shared with the Membership of OBVTA via the official website and that a discussion be schedule for the July Meeting of the OBVTA

Sincerely,

Melindo A. Persi