

## **ORTLEY BEACH VOTERS AND TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION**

General Membership Meeting

Saturday, June 17, 2023

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order – A call to Order was conducted by President, Anthony Colucci beginning the June OBVTA general membership meeting.
2. Moment of Reflection - A moment of reflection was conducted by the OBVTA Directors and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Roll Call – Roll call was conducted by the Secretary, John Clarke, and the following Board of Directors were present; Anthony Colucci, Paul Jeffrey, Debbie Barton, John Clarke, Joe Cantalupo, Cathy Crisafulli, and Mike Wymbs.
4. Quorum – President, Anthony Colucci requested Secretary John Clarke to determine whether or not a quorum was present. Upon review of the members present for the General Membership meeting, it was clearly established that a quorum had been reached as far in excess of 40 members of the membership were present at the meeting thereby establishing a quorum.
5. Minutes – The minutes from the May 13, 2023 General Membership meeting were presented and accepted by a unanimous vote from the Board of Directors.
6. BOD Election - The election for the three seats on the Board of Directors was held prior to and at the beginning of the General Membership meeting. Four candidates were running for three positions. The four candidates included two incumbents, Cathy Crisafulli and Joan Strathern as well as two other candidates, Mr. Mel Persi and Mr. Michael Stramandinoli. The ballots were collected and will be counted following the meeting and the results will be posted on the OBVTA website.
7. Treasurer’s Report – The Treasurer’s Report was presented by the OBVTA Treasurer, Debbie Barton. So far, through May 2023, the income from dues payments amounts to \$7,950.00 with the year-to-date membership at 615 and the year-to-date members at 804. The money market year-to-date income is

\$5.00 and the lawyer retainer returned amount was \$2,863.00 for the total operating income year-to-date amounting to \$10,821.00 with \$4,730.00 for the month of May. Expenses were detailed and included refreshments for \$481.00 year-to-date and \$281.00 for the month of May. The hall rental and zoom rental related expenses amounted to \$600.00. The primary expense noted in the May 2023 financials included the website amounting to \$3,621.00 which also includes the \$3,440.00 of the Glue-Up renewal. Other miscellaneous expenses are also included with total expenses of \$4,776.00 year-to-date leaving a net operating income of \$3,180.00 year-to-date. The total cash at hand at the end of this period includes a money market account of \$26,419.00, a checking account of \$35,375.00, and a CD of \$20,00.00 for a total cash at hand of \$81,794.00. The Board of Directors unanimously agreed to accept the Treasurer's Report at the June 17, 2023 General Membership meeting.

8. President's Notes – Anthony Colucci, OBVTA President, addressed the General Membership on a variety of topics. Included in the topics were the issues concerning the Pickle Ball court. There have been many complaints concerning the noise and the lighting of the Pickle Ball courts. It has been acknowledged by the members and the OBVTA that the sound from the Pickle Ball courts is loud and starts very early in the day and continues quite late into the night. In addition, the lighting at the Pickle Ball courts are extremely bright and causes great inconvenience into the neighborhood surrounding the Pickle Ball courts. It was acknowledged that Anthony Colucci had previously addressed the town and was asking that the town change the Pickle Ball hours from 8:00 a.m. to dusk and that the lights be completely turned off. This was met with general consensus by the membership and we will be attempting to have the town make these changes to the procedures surrounding the Pickle Ball courts.

Another new topic included the Verizon tower that is also located in the parking lot of the Pickle Ball courts. It was recounted that the Verizon tower was put up without any input from the OBVTA and the OBVTA was just as surprised as the rest of the Ortley residents when the erection of this large unsightly tower was installed. Complaints had been made by the OBVTA Board of Directors to the town concerning the tower and the OBVTA has been assured that the towers are temporary in nature and will hopefully be removed by September 30, 2023. The Verizon towers were installed as a temporary measure so that communication is enabled during the busy summer season. It was noted, however, that the tower

is extremely unsightly, noisy, and takes up parking spots that are much needed in the Pickle Ball court area.

In addition, President Colucci addressed the recent representations by the candidates for the Mayor position including the successful Republican nominee, Councilman Roderick. There have been representations made by all of the candidates including Councilman Roderick that EMS was a priority on the island and that we will be looking forward to having EMS on the island 24/7 even during the off-season in the near future. The OBVTA Board of Directors has continued to communicate with Toms River on these issues and will attempt to press this issue as it is an extremely important one for our residents.

In addition, it was noted that Rockafella's is being transformed into what appears to be a "Rockafella's Market". This market should be opened sometime by the end of June, 2023. It is also noted that a new establishment, Pressed Coffee, has opened and the reviews from the General Membership seem to be very positive concerning this new eatery.

9. Guest – Lt. Gene Bachonski – Lt. Bachonski addressed the General Membership as he most always does in his usual informing and entertaining manner. Lt. Bachonski took this opportunity to introduce a couple of the local Class I Offices that would be helping patrol Ortley Beach during the summer months. Keller Madeo and Merenda Green-Scott were introduced and gave a brief description of themselves. Both Class I Officers made a nice appearance and were warmly welcomed by the General Membership. Also introduced during this time was Assistant Officer of Emergency Management Director, Michael Brofee who was likewise welcomed by the OBVTA General Membership.

Lt. Bachonski indicated that the beach season was upon us and with it is the increased beach staffing which began on Memorial Day weekend. As the Toms River Police Department expected, there was an increase in police calls for service over the Memorial Day weekend which then tails off until school is out. Even though it has tailed off with the juveniles since the Memorial Day weekend, we need to be well prepared as the weekends get close to the Fourth of July, more juveniles will be present. Deputy Chief Dellane is very aware of this problem and is taking the necessary steps to protect Ortley Beach.

Lt. Bachonksi indicated that in the last thirty days, 232 Ortley calls (approximately 8 per day) were made. Of those calls, 15 were juvenile calls and 70 were disorderly persons calls. By contrast, there were mainland calls which amounted to 7,067 which accounted for approximately 235 calls per day. With regard to the juvenile problem, the Toms River Police Department continues to utilize social media to identify pop-up parties ahead of time. If they do arise, Toms River Police Department anticipates requesting mutual aid services from agencies like the Ocean County Sheriff's Department and New Jersey State Police but he cautions the membership that it should be reminded that Ortley Beach is far from the only shore community that is experiencing these problems and that the entire Jersey Shore will be relying on their local Sheriff's Department and New Jersey State Police for assistance.

Lt. Bachonski did indicate that the curfew from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. for juveniles under 16 has been placed back in effect and they hope that this will help alleviate the pop-up parties.

Each beach entrance in the north and south beaches have been numbered by the Toms River Department of Public Works. The Police Department is now aware of these numbers and our dispatchers are prepared to send emergency services to these beach locations as required.

Lt Bachonski also reminded the membership that there has been a recent rash of car burglaries and asked that the membership please lock their doors and do not leave any valuables in the vehicles in plain view. Also, once again he reminded that fraud remains rampant in the State of New Jersey and across the US. If you get a call and do not know the number, he reminds us not to answer it. Do not trust anyone and certainly be very suspicious of emails. If it happens to be an email from a service or provider that you utilize, look at your bill and contact that agency by the number located on the bill not on the number located on the email.

There has been a recent rise in electric bicycles in the Ortley Beach area. Low speed vehicles are allowed to be on roads that are 25 mph or less and are allowed to cross higher speed roads like Route 35 and Bay Blvd. but are not allowed to drive along those roads. These people must have a driver's license, registration, insurance, headlights, tail lights, brake lights, turn signals, speedometer and odometer on the vehicles. There are several types of these vehicles including

Class I bicycles that are equipped with a motor to provide assistance when the rider is pedaling and the maximum speed is 20 mph. There are Class II bicycles that are equipped with a thermomoter actuated motor with a maximum speed of 20 mph. Class I and Class II motorized vehicles are regulated like bicycles, no registration is required and they may ride on bike paths but not on sidewalks and like bicycles must abide by NJSA pedal 39 motor vehicle laws. There are Class III bicycles that are defined as motorized bicycles that travel in excess of 20 mph. A person operating this vehicle must be 15 years or older and have a motorized bicycle license. They also must register and insure the vehicle.

10. Toms River Police Department Foundation Golf Outing – The Toms River Police Department Foundation golf outing is on for June 21, 2023 and the next neighborhood watch meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at police headquarters where they will be provided free coffee and donuts.

11. Guest, Justin Lamb – Our representative on the Toms River council, Justin Lamb was also present to speak at the General Membership meeting. Justin Lamb discussed a variety of issues beginning with the Pickle Ball court. Justin Lamb addressed the General Membership and also answered questions concerning the Pickle Ball court. Councilman Lamb acknowledged that it is loud and creates a general inconvenience for the surrounding residents. Justin Lamb agreed with the OBVTA's position that he would be supporting a limitation in the number of hours that the Pickle Ball court would be in use in general and the number of hours that the lights would be on, if at all, in an attempt to have these changes made through Toms River.

Councilman Lamb also addressed the Verizon tower that has been discussed herein. Councilman Lamb indicated that it was a temporary structure but one that he did not even get a chance to voice an opposition to as it was done on a "emergency nature" and the council did not get to address the same. He did acknowledge that it is a temporary structure that is currently planned to only be in effect until September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Lamb also addressed the issues concerning the large gatherings with the minors. He is supporting and attempting to push through a beach curfew that would be in effect from 12:00 a.m. through 5:00 a.m. each night in an attempt to give the police another tool to attempt to clear out the mass gatherings of

juveniles on the beach at night. Councilman Lamb also proceeded to answer a variety of individual questions from the General Membership and was very helpful in answering a variety of questions.

12. Committee Notes – The beautification committee also gave an updated report that was presented to the General Membership. With regard to the Bay Boulevard issues, the Ocean County Engineer, John Ernst, called Board of Director Joan Strathern to indicated that Rich Reenstra, the Forester, will be in charge of coordinating the rebuilding and grass seeding of the median where the curbing was put in near Mia’s restaurant. Mr. Ernst indicated to Ms. Strathern that the other medians on Bay Boulevard could use some rebuilding at the ends where the soil has washed away. Mr. Ernst said that while the crews are out there rebuilding the median by Mia’s, they would also look at and possibly repair other issues with regard to the medians on Bay Boulevard. One other issue that was brought up was the cars parking on Bay Boulevard too close to the corner of Bay and Sixth in front of the Dockside condos. This parking near the corners is blocking sight distancing for going straight and turning left. Ms. Strathern indicated to Mr. Ernst that perhaps signs could be posted “no parking here to corner” and he indicated that he will have his crews out there to investigate it and decide what would be best to correct this problem. Ms. Strathern also called Rich Reenstra to find out the time frame for work on the medians. He indicated he was reaching out to the road crews and have them look for other medians that need repair and fill as well. He could not indicate when this would happen but that he will be in touch with Ms. Strathern as the work progresses.

13. Beach Committee – John Clarke gave an update on the beach issues for the General Membership. There are a couple of different types of work being done on the beach, including the repairs by Tom River themselves and then secondly, the Army Corp. of Engineers beach replenishment. With regard to the Toms River repairs, Toms River has done the repairs for this upcoming season and even after the mass gatherings and damage to some of the railings and the areas around the ocean area, Toms River has repaired all of those damages and upgraded the beach and it is ready for the 2023 beach season. The Army Corp. of Engineers has indicated, however, that the beach replenishment is currently in suspension. The Army Corp. of Engineers has received a bid protest that requires the Army Corp. of Engineers to address the issues referenced in the protest before they can proceed further with any contract solicitation or awarding of a contract to do the

work. Mr. Roche of the Army Corp. of Engineers has indicated that it could take a number of months to work through the required contractual process to resolve the bid protest. They are hopeful that a resolution can be reached in the upcoming months and that a contract can be awarded before the end of the year.

Beach Badges – So far, this year, beach badges have amounted to \$422,565.00 as compared to \$293,745.00 to this point last year. In addition, there are a number of new “stay off the dunes” signs that Mr. Clarke has had discussions with Mike Mazzola of the Toms River DPW who has created and placed these signs in and around the dunes per our request. Also of note, Ocean Avenue is now a one-way street from Harding to Fort and it travels in a northerly direction.

Light of the Day – Paul Jeffrey also made an announcement that Barnacle Bills is having a fundraiser for Parkinson’s Disease at the Barnacle Bill mini golf area. 100% of the proceeds from the mini golf on June 17, 2023 is going towards Parkinson’s Disease research.

14. Close of Meeting - A motion was then brought to have the June 17, 2023, General Membership meeting brought to a close and that was unanimously approved.