

ORTLEY BEACH VOTERS AND TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

General Membership Meeting

Saturday, October 21, 2023

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order – A call to Order was conducted by President, Anthony Colucci beginning the October 21, 2023 OBVTA general membership meeting.
2. Moment of Reflection - A moment of silence was conducted by the OBVTA Board of Directors for those who have lost their lives and are suffering around the world. The moment of reflection was 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 September 16, 2023 General Membership meeting were presented and accepted by a unanimous vote from the Board of Directors.
6. Treasurer’s Report – The Treasurer’s Report was presented by the OBVTA Treasurer, Debbie Barton. So far, through August 2023, the total operating income for OBVTA is \$17,722.00 and the monthly income for September was \$421.00. We currently have 684 members with 514 active memberships. Total business memberships remained at 19 for 2023. Expenses year-to-date amount to \$17,111.19 with year-to-date expenses totaling \$4,085.00 for the month of September. Net income for 2023 totals \$604.00.

The OBVTA currently has a total amount of cash on hand of \$76,352.00 including \$18,533.00 in our money market account, \$36,352.00 in TD Bank which includes the money market and checking account. In addition, there is \$20,000.00 in a CD

at the First Internet Bank of Indiana and another CD also in the amount of \$20,000.00, realizing the total cash of \$76,350.00.

The Treasurer's Report had some discussion by the General Membership including a question about the large internet/website charges. A prompt explanation by our Treasurer, Debbie Barton, was that we were not correctly billed by our service provider, GlueUp, in 2022 so the large charges reflect finally paying that invoice from last year. Said report was unanimously accepted by the OBVTA Board of Directors.

7. Guest, Councilman, Justin Lamb – Councilman Lamb was unable to appear at our meeting due to a recent undisclosed illness/injury.

Guest Police Lieutenant Bachonski - Lieutenant Bachonski addressed the General Membership as he does on a monthly basis. As this was our last meeting for 2023, Lieutenant Bachonski brought forth a type of year in review summary of police activity in Ortlely Beach. Lieutenant Bachonski indicated that in April of 2023, he attended a meeting in Ortlely and then in Normandy Beach later that same day. Both of these areas had nearly identical stats for the 2023 year. Ortlely Beach calls were serviced from the Toms River Police Department are approximately 1/20th of the entire town of Toms River. During the summer months, there were 20,000 calls on the mainland and approximately 1,000 calls in Ortlely Beach. The juvenile problems that we have experienced in the past were not nearly a problem for the 2023 year. Lieutenant Bachonski did not know the exact reason for the reduction, although other communities did suffer issues with the juveniles. There were no pop-up parties to speak of in Ortlely Beach and a curfew was approved and seemed to be effective in keeping the juveniles under control. There was also an increased police presence, and this seems to be successful in keeping the crime and the juvenile issues under control.

Low speed vehicles are allowed in the Ortlely Beach community. These include the electric golf carts that we see on a fairly regular basis. To operate these types of vehicles in Ortlely Beach, they must be operated on roads of 25 mph or less, are allowed to cross higher speed roads such as Route 35 and Bay Boulevard but are not allowed to drive on those roads. In order to operate these vehicles, the operators must have a driver's license, registration, insurance, head lights, taillights, brake lights, turn signals, speedometer and odometer. In addition, seat

belts are required. The issue of low speed electric bicycles is also becoming more prevalent in our area, especially during the summer months. A Class I type of bicycle is a bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and the maximum speed is 20 mph. A Class II bicycle is equipped with a throttle actuated motor and likewise the maximum speed is 20 mph. Class I and II electric bicycles are regulated like regular bicycles. No registration and they may ride on bike paths but not sidewalks. They must obey Title 39 laws. Class III bicycles are defined as motorized bicycles. These vehicles can travel over 20 mph and the operator must be 15 years old or older to operate. A motorized bicycle must have a license and be registered and insured.

Lieutenant Bachonski indicated that car burglars on the mainland continue to be an issue. He indicated once again his public service announcement is to lock your doors on all vehicles and do not leave valuables in plain view. Also, Lieutenant Bachonski indicated that fraud still runs rampant throughout the State of New Jersey and since our last meeting there has been one instance of fraud in Ortleigh Beach. One thing that the Toms River Police Department seems to be recommending is to freeze your accounts. This is accomplished by being able to get accounts with Equifax, Experian and Trans Union and these are all for free. When you set up these accounts, you need to click "freeze" on these accounts. If you need to open up a line of credit, get another credit card, take out a mortgage or whatever, you can go on to these accounts and click "unfreeze". This does seem to be a little cumbersome, but it can save giant headaches in the future. Once again, Lieutenant Bachonski reiterated that he does not feel that we should trust anyone. Do not answer your phone if you do not know who it is and be suspicious of all emails.

There is a Halloween Day parade for Tuesday, October 31, 2023. The next neighborhood watch meeting is Thursday, November 2, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at Police Headquarters where they will be providing free coffee and donuts. There will be a jingle bells runs Sunday on December 3, 2023. As a public service announcement, Lieutenant Bachonski indicated with the holiday season coming on, a holiday gift idea that seems to be popular is to give out cameras. Do some research and pick out the cameras. These are a great deterrent to crime and a great assistance to the Toms River Police Department in helping to solve crimes in the perpetrators are caught on video.

There were questions and comments from our General Membership including the dangerous yield sign leading from Seaside Heights onto Route 35 northbound. Many times, vehicles do not stop at all for the yield sign and this is a very dangerous situation moving forward. There were also questions on the number of police officers that will be present in Ortley Beach in off hours and during the winter season. Lieutenant Bachonski was not able to give a definitive number but did indicate that there are “a lot” of police presence in Ortley Beach. Other questions included whether or not we feel that Toms River is writing enough tickets for enforcement of motor vehicle violations. In the past, a member has indicated in her life, towns that write a lot of tickets and are big on enforcement, have much safer areas than those that do not.

8. President’s Notes - Anthony Colucci, OBVTA President, had a number of topics that he addressed for the General Membership. To begin with, President Colucci announced that an OBVTA Holiday Party is scheduled for December 2, 2023 at the Park Pavilion, a private room above Saw Mill. All members and a guest are invited. Details including cost, time, and particulars will be forthcoming as soon as they are able to be formalized.

Over the winter time, the OBVTA committees are going to make an effort to get together and meet so that we are better prepared and more able to move forward with the committees for the 2024 season. The committees include the Planning & Zoning Committee headed by Paul Jeffrey, the Ortley Beautification Committee headed by Joan Strathern and Cathy Crisafulli, and the Beach Committee headed by John Clarke. If members wish to join one of the committees, they are encouraged to do so by reaching out via email through the OBVTA website.

Originally, this October meeting was scheduled to have the candidates for Mayor present to give a brief presentation and answer some brief questions presented by the OBVTA Board of Directors. However, as both candidates were not able to appear together, in the interest of fairness, the OBVTA Board of Directors felt that it was fairest if each of the candidates were submitted written questions and written responses would be had to said questions. These answers have been received and have been submitted by email to the OBVTA General Membership and are posted on the website.

Although Director Michael Stramandinoli was unable to be present for this meeting due to work scheduling, President Colucci reported that Director Stramandinoli has received a positive response from Toms River on the speed limit on Bay Boulevard that is currently set at 35 mph and are in agreement to recommend that it be reduced to 25 mph. Bay Boulevard is, however, a county road and as such, the county needs to authorize the reduction of the speed limit. The OBVTA Board of Directors is in the process of coordinating an effort through Ocean County to determine if Ocean County will in fact authorize the reduction of the speed limit on Bay Boulevard.

9. Committee Notes – On behalf of the Beautification Committee, Cathy indicated that street scape is still attempting to be pushed forward and that while it is acknowledged that it is a ten year old project, it remains in the works and is pending final approvals that would lead to implementation hopefully sooner rather than later. Cathy Crisafulli also indicated and took the opportunity to shout out to Mary Paparazzo for all of her hard work during this busy summer season on behalf of the OBVTA in handling the food and beverages for our General Membership meetings. It was acknowledged that this is a lot of work and a shout out needs to be sent to Mary Paparazzo for undertaking this endeavor. Also, Cathy Crisafulli reminded our General Membership that it is election season and that we all need to be registered and get out to vote. Especially during our mayoral election here in Toms River, it is important for everyone to vote so that our voices are heard.

Paul Jeffrey also gave a quick update on the Planning and Zoning Committee. Efforts continue to persuade Toms River as well as individual property owners to establish more commercial businesses on the Route 35 North corridor. Currently, the property that was previously owned by Joey Harrison's next to the laundromat is currently being pushed by the current owner to build a couple of residential houses on the property, although it is acknowledged that that has not been finalized. Also, the finalized plans for the extension of the boardwalk over the old Joey Harrison's property remains somewhat in limbo and the Board of Directors is hoping this moves forward sooner rather than later. The good note is that the large unsightly temporary Verizon cell phone tower has been removed from the Pickle Ball court. A permanent cell phone tower has been agreed upon and will be placed on top of the Waldorf Condominiums. This will be somewhat

in the shape of an air conditioning unit and should not be unsightly for the beach or the road. Paul did mention that there is a large cell phone tower (approximately 96 ft.) that is scheduled to be erected further up on Route 35 north so we are thankful that this is not occurring in the Ortley Beach area. Paul did reference that our membership is down approximately 130 members of which 30 are permanent residents. These permanent residents are people who are important to the OBVTA and the Board of Directors agree that we will double up our efforts to attempt to have these individuals sign back up. An interesting idea was brought up by one of our members to set up tables, perhaps on the boardwalk, during the early part of next beach season, maybe a couple of times in May and/or June in order to have a membership push. This will be discussed at future Board of Directors meetings.

John Clarke also gave an update on behalf of the Beach Committee. Director Clarke was informed during this past week that there has been a new bid protest filed which our experience tells us will take another three to four months to resolve at which time the bids can go out for the beach replenishment. Obviously, this is extremely disappointing news and we will be lucky if we see the beginnings of any kind of work with regard to the beach replenishment before the 2024 summer season.

On a side note, it was noted by Mr. Clarke that the dune grass planting is currently scheduled for Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. with a rain date of Sunday, November 5, 2023. Based on the number of volunteers who raised hands at the meetings, we would expect somewhere in the neighborhood of 50 volunteers this year and Mr. Clarke is in the process of coordinating with DPW for the delivery of the sea glass and the planting instruments.

10. Close of Meeting - A motion was then brought to have the October 21, 2023, General Membership meeting brought to a close and that was unanimously approved.