

ORTLEY BEACH VOTERS AND TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

General Membership Meeting

Saturday, September 16, 2023

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order – A call to Order was conducted by President, Anthony Colucci beginning the August OBVTA general membership meeting.
2. Moment of Reflection - A moment of silence was conducted by the OBVTA Board of Directors for those who 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, Debbie Barton, John Clarke, Joe Cantalupo, Cathy Crisafulli, Joan Strathern, 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 August 19, 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 is \$17,302.00 and the monthly income totals \$750.00. We currently have 636 memberships that include active memberships at 503 and grace period memberships of 133. Year-to-date members amount to 828. In the last reporting period there was 1 new member and 1 business membership added. Year-to-date business memberships amount to 18 renewals and 19 total business memberships as compared to last year when we had 22. Expenses year-to-date amount to \$13,049.00 and expenses for the August reporting period amount to \$2,291.00. Net income for the 2023 year-to-date amounts to \$4,253.00.

The OBVTA currently has a total amount of cash on hand of \$80,116.00 including \$18,442.00 in our money market account, \$21,674.00 in checking, amounting to \$40,096 in cash at TD Bank. We also have \$20,000.00 in a CD at the First Internet Bank of Indiana and a treasury bond in the amount of \$20,000.00. In addition, we have \$162.00 that we donated to the Butterfly Garden donation and \$112.00 to business stickers. These two items were added into the expenses previously referenced.

The Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted by the OBVTA Board of Directors.

7. Guest, Police Lieutenant Bachonski - Lieutenant Bachonski addressed the General Membership as he most often does in a thorough and informative manner. Lieutenant Bachonski went through the numbers of the calls throughout the summer season and Toms River felt that although there were a couple of pop-up parties early in the season, that the juveniles had been handled in a very efficient manner. Lieutenant Bachonski also reminded the membership that there has been a recent rash of car burglaries and asked that the membership make sure they lock their doors and do not leave any valuables in their vehicle in plain view. Lieutenant Bachonski also addressed the OBVTA General Membership that fraud remains rampant in the State of New Jersey and across the United States. Lieutenant Bachonski advised that if you get a call and do not recognize the number, that you should not answer it. Furthermore, he felt that we should not trust anyone and certainly be very suspicious of emails. If there happens to be an email from a service or provider that you utilize, make sure that you look at your individual bill and contact that agency by that number rather than the number located on the email.

Lieutenant Bachonski also indicated that the Toms River Police Chief in association with the Office of Emergency Management coordinator can issue emergency declarations like the juvenile curfew. Lieutenant Bachonski felt that the juvenile curfew had been very efficiently applied this year and felt it was greatly beneficial in dealing with pop-up parties as well as large gatherings of juveniles and moving them out of town. He also feels that the juvenile curfew was impactful in keeping down disorderly persons disturbances and damage to the property in Toms River.

The September 16th time period was also associated with some very heavy storms that were creating very high surf up and down the New Jersey coast. Lieutenant Bachonski indicated that there was a temporary ban on swimming in both the north beaches as well as in Ortley Beach. This temporary ban on swimming would remain in effect until it is deemed safe by Toms River. Over the upcoming weekend, lifeguards will be present, however, that does not mean that the red flag warnings will necessarily be lifted as that depends on the safety of the ocean during those time periods. It should be noted that the hurricane emergency declaration which was banning swimming did NOT apply to surfers.

Lieutenant Bachonski also indicated that the no swimming was the result of a declaration of a local emergency whereas NJSA App. 9:40.5 indicated that as of 12:00 a.m. on Friday, September 15, 2023, there was no swimming on the beaches as ordered by Mitchell A. Little, Toms River Police Chief and the Emergency Management coordinator. This declaration of emergency would not be lifted until it was safe to enter the water again and the red flags were lifted.

8. President, Anthony Colucci – President Colucci also addressed the general membership and spoke on a variety of topics. Mr. Colucci gave instructions on voter registration and indicated that while many of the residents in Ortley Beach are down here temporarily, that they can register and vote down here if they would so choose to do. Information for voter registration and how to apply will be posted on the OBVTA website. In addition, the progress of the Butterfly Garden was discussed that is existing on Ocean Avenue in between the parking spots and the boardwalk itself. Many plants had been actually planted between Fielder and Coolidge and there were volunteers who were watering them. The area looks quite nice all cleaned up with mulch and the butterfly plants should be taking hold soon. The rest of the areas will be seeded for the upcoming fall time period.

In addition, Mr. Colucci advised the General Membership that the OBVTA is looking into a new speaker system to help alleviate some of the audio issues we have had at the Moose General Membership meetings in the past. Mr. Colucci also indicated that counsel meetings upcoming on September 29th, October 11th, and October 25th have important issues that may directly impact Ortley Beach and encourage all members of the OBVTA to attend these meetings. Mr. Colucci also advised that there was a blood drive being conducted by the Ocean Beach Fire

Company on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 12:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Mr. Colucci advised the General Membership that garbage and recycling was being moved to the off-season schedule whereby garbage is picked up on Mondays and recycling every other Monday. Mr. Colucci also advised the General Membership that in the October meeting, they hope to have each of the candidates who are running for Mayor of Toms River to give a short presentation to the membership followed up with some questions to be presented by the OBVTA Board of Directors.

9. Committee Notes – Committee notes were also presented. Joan Strathern gave an update on the street scape project as well as the Bay Boulevard issues. Street scape is moving forward and the grass planted on the Bay Boulevard areas hope to be planted in and around the 7th Avenue area of Bay Boulevard in association with the curbing that was conducted at Mia's. The curbing seems to have been quite effective in stopping customers of Mia's Pizzeria from parking on the median in that area. John Clarke also gave a brief presentation as to the Army Corp. of Engineers beach replenishment. The good news is that the Army Corp. of Engineers had resolved the bid protests and the Army Corp. of Engineers has advised the OBVTA that they hope to move forward with awarding a contract in the fall and hopefully to get moving on the replenishment this upcoming winter.

10. Close of Meeting - A motion was then brought to have the September 16, 2023, General Membership meeting brought to a close and that was unanimously approved.