

ORTLEY BEACH VOTERS AND TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

General Membership Meeting

Saturday, April 20, 2024

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order – A call to Order was conducted by President, Anthony Colucci beginning the April 20, 2024 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 due to violence 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, Cathy Crisafulli, and Michael Stramandinoli.
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 October 21, 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. The budget for the 2024 budget was submitted to the General Membership and was offered without any questions from the general membership concerning the same. As such, the 2024 budget as moved before the Board of Trustees and passed by unanimous vote. For the monthly financial report, through March 2024, the net dues of payments have amounted to \$1,054.00. Year-to-date memberships stand at 535 with year-to-date members being at 708 (this includes 3 new members). Total business members remain at 19. The money market year-to-date amounted to \$4.00 with CD’s and Treasury income amounting to \$944.00. This brings our monthly income to \$841.00 and

the total operating income year-to-date at \$2,002.00. The net expenses year-to-date was at \$0.00 leaving the total net income for the year-to-date at \$2,002.00.

Total cash on hand stands at \$76,632.00 which includes \$35,687.00 in cash at TD Bank, (plus \$2,945.00 in a CD at the First Internet Bank of Indiana and another CD in the amount of \$20,000.00 at WSFS).

As of April 1, 2024, \$10,000.00 will be moved to WSFS to purchase an 11 month CD at 5% interest.

7. Guest Speaker Lieutenant Gene Bachonski - Lieutenant Bachonski presented to the General Membership and his usual informative and entertaining manner. Lieutenant Bachonski did a comparison for 2023 stats to the previous year of 2022 stats. In Ortle Beach, there were 1,195 total calls in 2023 as compared to 1,065 calls in 2022. As compared to what is on the mainland, there were 29,218 calls on the mainland as compared to 27,092 on the mainland in 2022. Ortle Beach is very comparable and the total calls to Normandy Beach as there were 1,095 total calls in Normandy Beach for 2023. Serious crimes such as murders/robberies/kidnappings amounted to only 1 call and that was for a robbery that took place on 8th Avenue in Ortle. There were 2 burglaries and 1 aggravated assault. There were 8 thefts and 29 disorderly persons offenses. In addition, there were 6 calls for fireworks in the 2023 year. There were 41 total accidents that happened in 107 days of statistics as compared to 2,044 on the mainland. Most of these occurred from left-hand turns from the right-hand lane mainly between Harding and 6th Avenue. There were 11 criminal mischief matters involving property damage and 33 calls for juveniles as compared to 74 in 2022.

Of importance is the curfew that was signed by Chief Little for minors, individuals 17 and under from May 24, 2024 through September 3, 2024. The curfew is from 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. throughout Ortle Beach.

The Ambulance Corp., CSO are currently accepting applications for full and part time CSO's through Toms River. A reminder that the high intensity activated cross walk, HAWK, near Stewart's (in Seaside Heights) has five phases: 1) when nothing is on, you may proceed; 2) when the lights are flashing yellow, you need to slow down; 3) when there is a solid yellow, the motorists need to prepare to stop; 4)

when there is a solid red, you must stop for pedestrians; and 5) when there is flashing red (after approximately 30 seconds), you are authorized to proceed when clear of pedestrians.

As reminders, the neighborhood watch in Toms River is the 1st Thursday of every month, which for May is May 2nd at 7:00 p.m. In addition, there are junior police camps for 6th, 7th and 8th graders that will take place from July 8th through the 12th. If interested, please sign up.

In addition, there is a question concerning the car break-ins that occurred in Ortley Beach over this past winter. Without going into specifics, Lieutenant Bachonski indicated that 99% of the break-ins that occur take place with unlocked cars and unlocked houses. He reminds everyone to make sure they lock up their cars and houses.

Guest Speaker, Councilman Justin Lamb – Councilman Lamb gave a short presentation to the General Membership and then discussed his recent meeting with members of the OBVTA Board of Directors in which we discussed a number of issues. This discussion led to discussion and questions from the audience on a variety of topics including the following. 1) The kayak issue was discussed. Justin Lamb indicated that the new administration is actively trying to take the initiative to handle matters as quickly as possible and be active and responsive to Ortley Beach. This includes the kayaks. Councilman Lamb indicated that additional kayak slips have long been requested by Ortley Beach residents and in response thereto, the new kayak slips were erected over by the tennis courts. Justin Lamb did admit that these were erected hastily without consultation through the OBVTA and perhaps they were not located in the best position. In response to complaints thereto, the kayak slips were moved from the front of this area near Route 35 to behind the tennis courts which is where they will remain located. There were questions on how these were going to be launched and it was suggested by Anthony Colucci, President of the OBVTA, that a wooden walk path over the muddy/swampy area be included to give people an easier place to launch their kayaks from. Justin Lamb said he would run this up the chain of command and see what the new administration wants to do with regard to this.

A great deal of discussion was had in response to a question from one of the members concerning the new proposed ordinance concerning tents and

structures and similar structures on Ortley Beach. One member in particular was upset as she indicated she had medical issues that require her to stay out of the sun, but she still enjoys going to the beach. Apparently, members of the membership began interrupting and making potentially inappropriate comments to this member which led to some unruly behavior. The OBVTA Board of Directors wishes to stress that any such unruly behavior will not be tolerated and requests that all of our members act in a professional and courteous manner at our General Membership meetings. Councilman Lamb did respond to questions concerning the ordinance and indicated that this was merely a proposal and any further objections can certainly be brought to the Toms River Council.

There were also some discussions on the area that was previously Joey Harrison's and the fenced off area whereby the nightclub previously stood. Anthony Colucci did indicate that there are plans to take the whole fence down and allow beach access through the 5th Avenue entrance. It is difficult to allow additional use through this area as the DEP maintains various restrictions of the use in this area and neither the OBVTA nor Toms River wants to overstep their bounds at this time.

Additional questions had to do with the cell phone antenna that was erected without the residents' knowledge last summer. The membership was assured that no temporary antennas would be erected this year and most likely in the future as the necessary antennas had been re-erected over top of the Waldorf Condominium complex.

Questions were had to Councilman Lamb as to what to do with all the wires hanging down on the telephone poles leading to unsightly and potentially dangerous conditions. Councilman Lamb indicated that he would look into this matter and advise the Board of Directors on how this can be resolved.

There was a meeting that took place involving street scape between Justin, NV5, and Anthony Colucci. Apparently, what is needed at this point is Toms River to sign off on the project and this should be moving forward. Councilman Lamb indicated that based on his discussion, we are hopeful that this project will begin in the construction phase in October of 2024.

One of our more active members also addressed the membership and demanded that the OBVTA contact the Toms River Councilman who recently at a Toms River Council Meeting indicated that he does not care about Ortley Beach. Debbie Martin requested that the OBVTA contact this Councilman and ask for an apology. It was also encouraged by this member to attend the council meetings to make sure that our voice is heard to the full council.

The Engineer with the firm retained by town council also gave a very brief presentation at the end of the meeting with regard to moving forward on the street scape project. Mr. Quinn indicated that the paperwork will be signed and forwarded to NV5 and hopefully that the street scape project will take place this fall. Mr. Quinn also indicated that the boardwalk extension is on course to be constructed this fall as well. Mr. Quinn showed up with plans for the General Membership to review and to answer any questions following the meeting. Mr. Quinn did indicate that he anticipates the street scape to take 4-6 weeks.

Of note, Mr. Quinn did indicate that in approximately 3 weeks that the beach repairs are anticipated to be conducted and the walk overs for the beach entrances should be repaired at the time.

8. Committee Notes – John Clarke gave an update from the beach committee. Mr. Clarke indicated that the Toms River beach repairs had been approved by Toms River with a budget in excess of \$300,000.00. Earle Construction Company has been retained by Toms River to conduct the repairs and get the beach ready and open for the 2024 summer season. Earle Construction Company is on call and Toms River has agreed that the anticipated construction will take place leading up to Memorial Day unless the weather forecast is not favorable at which time it will be delayed to avoid any storms damaging the repairs being made.

Next, Mr. Clarke gave an update on the Army Corp. of Engineers beach replenishment. In consultation with the Army Corp. of Engineers, Mr. Clarke was informed that the bids for the beach replenishment should go out in the next 2-4 weeks with an eye towards potentially beginning the construction in the fall following the 2024 beach season.

In addition, Mr. Clarke indicated that he and Justin Lamb are planning to meet with the beach personnel to discuss a variety of issues including posting and enforcing the beach rules, the position of the badge checkers down towards the boardwalk, installation of railings, additional “stay off the dunes” signs and removal of the ad signs that are currently in place on the boardwalk.

9. Board of Directors Election – Mr. Clarke advised the general membership that 3 new Board of Directors seats are to be elected at the June 2024 General Membership meeting. The current Board of Director seats that are up for election are Anthony Colucci’s, Debbie Barton’s and Joe Cantalupo’s seats. Anyone who is interested in becoming a candidate for a Board of Director seat, is required under the By-Laws of the OBVTA to notify the Board of Directors one week prior to the May meeting and provide a one page synopsis with some background information concerning themselves and how they may assist the OBVTA as a Director.

It should be noted that these seats are only for the Board of Directors and that election of the officers take place by the Board of Directors in accordance with the By-Laws of the OBVTA.

10. Board Member Comments – Paul Jeffrey did address the OBVTA with regard to some business development potentially taking place on Route 35 North and also that the new administration for Toms River has agreed to cooperate with the OBVTA in business development on the Route 35 North corridor.

In addition, Mr. Jeffrey advised the OBVTA that the Friends of Ortley Beach will be conducting a “Lot of Fun Fest” to replace the beach jam. Due to the shortened beach this year, the beach jam is being replaced by the event called the “Lot of Fun Fest”. It is being named this as it will take place at the 3rd Avenue parking lot instead of actually on the beach itself. It will have many of the same activities as the beach jam and is scheduled to take place on July 20th with a rain date of July 27th.

Also, Mr. Jeffrey advised the membership of a Rutgers University cooperative extension program entitled “Coastal Stewardship Course” that involves 10 weekly evening classes that discuss a variety of issues involving Barnegat Bay and related topics. Mr. Jeffrey had printed out flyers for the membership to take place if interested. In addition, also in association with Rutgers University, Mr. Jeffrey

advised of a program entitled “The Elements of Natural Resource Management” which has 6 programs that were webinars that will be taking place from April 2024 through June 2024. Flyers were also available to our general membership.

11. Close of Meeting - A motion was then brought to have the April 20, 2024, General Membership meeting brought to a close and that was unanimously approved.