

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

General Membership Meeting

Saturday, August 17, 2024

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order – A call to Order was conducted by Vice President, Paul Jeffrey beginning the August 17, 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 died and are suffering in the two wars happening 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; Paul Jeffrey, Debbie Barton, John Clarke, Joe Cantalupo, Cathy Crisafulli, Mike Wymbbs and Michael Stramandinoli.
4. Quorum – Vice President, Paul Jeffrey, 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 July 20, 2024 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. Income according to our Treasurer through August of 2024 showed a total operating income year-to-date in the amount of \$9,454.00 with \$1,591.00 coming from the month of July. Year-to-date memberships total 659 although 105 of these remain unpaid. Total business members stand at 20. Total expenditures for the year amount to \$10,625.00 with expenses for the month of July of \$1,151.00. Cash for the period up through July 2024 includes a total of \$23,277.00 in a money market account and a checking account at TD Bank. In addition, we have three (3) CD’s in separate institutions in the amount of \$50,000.00 which leaves our total cash at hand in the amount of \$74,222.00. A

special note, Ms. Barton did indicate that the Starlight Hotel has, once again, made a \$200.00 donation to the OBVTA for the work that we do on behalf of Ortley. The Board of Directors wishes to acknowledge the Starlight Hotel for this generous donation.

A motion was made to accept the financial report of Debbie Barton at our August General Membership meeting and this was accepted by all Directors present.

7. Guest Speakers – Justin Lamb – Our Council Representative, Justin Lamb, was scheduled to speak at the August 2024 General Membership meeting of the OBVTA. On the morning before the meeting, Paul Jeffrey received an email from Justin Lamb that he was unable to appear at our August meeting.

Guest Speaker - Lieutenant Gene Bachonski – During this past week, the OBVTA Board of Directors received a notification from Lt. Bachonski that the new administration in place in Toms River was requiring all public relations officers for Toms River to receive approval from the administration prior to speaking or attending association meetings, speaking to the press, or speaking publicly in general. Lt. Bachonski has been attending our meetings for over 10 years and, has done a wonderful job presenting at our OBVTA meetings. Lt. Bachonski attempted to get approval from the new Toms River administration but he was not able to obtain approval prior to Saturday's General Membership meeting. Lt. Bachonski sent an email to us apologizing for his inability to attend. Hopefully, Lt. Bachonski, who is scheduled to retire in October, will be able to attend our September General Membership meeting.

8. Christmas Tree Project – Our member who is working hard in pursuit of the Christmas Tree project for this upcoming holiday season, Michelle Bucci, gave a short presentation on the status thereof. The Christmas tree will be up from December 1<sup>st</sup> until January 15<sup>th</sup> and they are looking at putting it by the Fourth Avenue Lifeguard house near where there are two picnic tables set up so that it will be highly visible at that point and also visible from Route 35. They are still looking for shells from individuals and are also looking for volunteers to set up and take down the tree when the appropriate time comes. They are hoping to have it set up so that it is a nice photo opportunity for people during the holiday season. Michelle wishes to express that if you have any interest in volunteering,

please contact the OBVTA and if you have any shells, (of which several people showed up with bags of shells), please contact Michelle to donate the same.

9. Army Corp. of Engineer Update – John Clarke indicated that he had been in communication with Steve Rochette, of the Army Corp. of Engineers on the status of the beach replenishment project. Mr. Rochette's response was that the Manasquan to Barnegat Periodic Nourishment solicitation received formal offers on July 10, 2024. The project entails providing period nourishment (dune repairs and beach refill) to the existing coastal storm risk management project along portions of the ocean shoreline between Point Pleasant Beach and Berkeley Township. The bids submitted by the potential contractors are currently under review and there is no further information available at the current time. We are hopeful that the contracts will be awarded soon which will then allow the company with the winning bid to begin scheduling and starting the beach replenishment project.

10. County Property – Mike Wymbs discussed the potential usage of the vacant lot that is the site of the old sewage treatment plant in Ortley Beach. At the current time, the pumping station only takes up a small portion of the property leaving the remaining portion of the property unused and unsightly. We have in the past attempted to have the county allow Ortley Beach and/or the OBVTA to use this as a park or some other recreational property. Many of the members commented and discussed this and it was agreed that we should once again attempt to contact Toms River and/or Ocean County and put pressure on our local elected officials to allow this property to be used for the benefit of Ortley Beach. It was agreed that the OBVTA would contact Justin via email with regard to this particular issue.

11. Holiday Party – In 2023, we had the holiday party at the upper level of the Saw Mill and this was a pretty successful event. However, this year there seems to be limited desire to attend. Paul Jeffrey asked the membership to vote on whether or not, if they were not busy doing other plans, how many members would consider attending. Some members did raise their hands in support of the holiday party and Paul indicated that if we were to move forward with the holiday party, we will need volunteers to work to set this up. At the current time, Joan Strathern, who handled last years party, is unavailable to help with the party and, as such, we need volunteers to handle the same.

11. Friends of Ortley Beach – Paul Jeffrey indicated to the membership that the craft fair at the Friends of Ortley Beach was taking place on the day of our meeting and was scheduled to go from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and encouraged our membership to support the Friends of Ortley Beach and this craft fair.

12. Membership Comments – One of our members was very vocal and frustrated with what she contends as our lack of the Board of Directors to push our agenda with either the town, the county, or our state government. The member has indicated that she has written to Anthony on a couple of occasions and she has not heard anything back from our President, Anthony Colucci. There was much discussion about this and many members of the membership came up and thanked the Board of Directors for their time and effort that they have put in.

13. Close of Meeting - A motion was then brought to have the August 17, 2024, General Membership meeting brought to a close and that was unanimously approved.