

ORTLEY BEACH VOTERS AND TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

General Membership Meeting

Saturday, July 20, 2024

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order – A call to Order was conducted by President, Anthony Colucci beginning the July 20, 2024 OBVTA general membership meeting.
2. Moment of Reflection - A moment of silence was conducted by the OBVTA Board of Directors for those suffering from 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, Joe Cantalupo, Cathy Crisafulli, Joan Strathern, and Michael 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 June 15, 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. Total operating year-to-date income is \$8,906.00 and for the month of June, \$1,476.00. Year-to-date we have 642 memberships although 120 of them are unpaid. If not, they will be removed from the list. Likewise, we currently have 19 business memberships with 10 of those unpaid. The money market year-to-date is at \$6.00 and the year-to-date CD income is \$944.00 recognized.

Year-to-date expenses total \$9,494.00 and for the month of June \$1,196.00.

Year-to-date expenses for our refreshments and meetings supplies are \$1,947.00

and for the month of June \$270.00. Hall rental, zoom, committee meetings, copies year-to-date are \$600.00 and for the month of June \$200.00. Mailing expenses include \$71.00 for the year and the website domain email subscription year-to-date amounts to \$1,997.00. Miscellaneous membership expenses for the year are \$222.00 and we have \$490.00 in donations and gifts year-to-date. Given our operating income is slightly below our total expenses, our net income year-to-date is (\$849.00).

The OBVTA currently has cash at hand in TD Bank in the amount of \$22,345.00. In addition, we have three (3) CD's. A \$20,000.00 CD with the First Internet Bank of Indiana, a \$20,000.00 CD with WSFS and a \$10,000.00 CD with WSFS. Total cash and instruments through the month of June amount to \$73,289.00.

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

7. Board of Directors Election – John Clarke, as Secretary for the OBVTA, addressed the General Membership concerning the 2024 Board of Directors election and the subsequent election of officers. As indicated in the prior minutes in the June 15, 2024 General Membership meeting, Anthony Colucci, Debbie Barton, and Joe Cantalupo were all unopposed and elected to new three (3) year OBVTA terms. In addition, at the subsequent Board of Directors meeting, in accordance with the By-Laws, which indicate that the officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors, the offices of Vice President and Secretary were up for re-election.

The Board of Directors unanimously reappointed Paul Jeffrey as the Vice President and John Clarke as the Secretary of the OBVTA Board of Directors.

8. Guest Speakers – One of our guest speakers at the OBVTA General Membership meeting was Cheryl McCurry and Paul Jeffrey from Reclam the Bay. The presenters did an excellent job of presenting their activities in Reclam the Bay and are looking for volunteers to join this very worthwhile endeavor. Reclam the Bay was started in 2005 and encompasses an area from Barnegat the Holgate and up to Cattus Island Park. It includes Hatri Supplies and assists in breeding clams, oysters and scallops. This is a very involved process and begins at a very small minute ecosystem up to mature living creatures. This is a year-round process

whereby they start with breeding cages and develop them all the way up to the point that they are able to be placed throughout the bay. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is very much involved in Reclam the Bay and works with Reclam the Bay in advising Reclam the Bay and its volunteers as to where to place the clams, oysters and scallops. In and around Sledge Island, nearly a half million clams were planted last year and these get distributed into identified waters in accordance with Department of Environmental Protection instructions.

In addition, Reclam the Bay provides education in schools, fairs and festivals and has had a booth for the organization at Jenkinson's Aquarium.

Reclam the Bay did reiterate that they are always looking for volunteers and a number of people at the General Membership meeting seem to show interest in volunteering for the cause. They did indicate that for some of their breeding cages the group desperately needs people like plumbers to offer their assistance in the same.

At the end of the presentation, by previous vote, the Board of Directors determined to donate \$100.00 to Reclam the Bay and the same was presented to Cheryl McCurry at the General Membership meeting.

9. Councilman, Justin Lamb, was supposed to be present at the General Membership meeting but he was unavailable.

10. Guest Speaker, Lieutenant Gene Bachonski - Lieutenant Bachonski gave his presentation in his usual entertaining manner. He started by describing the activity on a typical night for the Toms River Police Department. In addition, he went through detail that in Toms River the calls for police over the past month amounted to 7,400. Of those, there were 279 calls in Ortley Beach for the Toms River Police and 328 calls for police in the Normandy Beach area. Noise complaints on the mainland accounted for 200 of these with Ortley Beach having 12 noise complaints and Normandy Beach having 21 noise complaints. Disorderly persons, what Lieutenant Bachonski calls "acting a fool" accounted for 401 calls for police with Ortley Beach and Normandy Beach accounting for 15 and 10 respectively. Juvenile calls involving juveniles on the mainland amounted to 59 while Ortley Beach and Normandy Beach accounted for 6 and 10 respectively.

Criminal mischief calls on the mainland amounted to 28 while Ortley Beach and Normandy Beach accounted for 2 and 0 respectively. Firework calls on the mainland amounted to 103 while Ortley Beach and Normandy Beach accounted for 5 and 5 respectively.

He did make note that Ortley Beach had 0 calls involving serious crimes that he would include as aggravated/simple assault, burglary, narcotics, and robbery. Overall, he feels that the numbers reflect that Ortley Beach is a very safe community but, as always, continue to be responsible and lock your house doors and cars.

Lieutenant Bachonski did credit the curfew with limiting the number of incidents Ortley Beach has dealt with over the last couple of years. The curfew for minors is from 10:00 p.m. to 5 a.m. and he feels that it is definitely working.

Mental health calls in the Toms River area amount to approximately 100 a month. As always, he indicated that with regard to fraud, it is widespread, and you should not trust anyone. If you don't know the person calling, don't answer it and be very careful with your email responses.

The neighborhood watch is set for Thursday, August 1st. In addition, the Junior Police Camp was a success and took place on July 8th through the 12th.

Operation Brain Freeze was also a success. Lieutenant Bachonski indicates that Operation Brain Freeze is where if the police see juveniles riding their bikes with helmets on and obeying the rules, they will be giving "tickets" which will allow them to receive free ice cream. So far, Operation Brain Freeze has given out 137 tickets for free ice cream to juveniles.

There were some questions that were asked and these include a request for a dead end sign on Shuster Avenue. Lieutenant Bachonski indicated that there are many dead end streets in Ortley Beach so if one receives them, they all would receive them but he will address this. Also discussed was the yield sign at the CVS whereby that road in front of CVS leading onto Route 35 is a very dangerous intersection and will eventually lead to potentially a serious accident. Lieutenant Bachonski did indicate that he will ask Officer Schwartz to look into that intersection.

Other members of the General Membership did compliment Lieutenant Bachonski on the police presence and thanked the Toms River Police for the care and protection given to our community.

11. Michelle Buchi – Shell Christmas Tree Holiday Project – Michelle Buchi, an OBVTA member and a member of the Beautification Committee, is planning a lit Christmas tree for this upcoming Christmas season. The Township of Toms River has given approval for this project and the OBVTA has agreed to allocate funds up to \$500.00 for this upcoming project. This will include items such as the tree itself, lights, stands and the like. This is done in neighboring communities and is very well received. Michelle Buchi is asking members to collect big shells and to decorate the big shells with markers so that they can be hung on the tree at Christmas time. The location of the tree is to be determined but it will most likely be at or near one of the lifeguard houses located in Ortley Beach. Any members wishing to be involved can contact the OBVTA and they will be directed to Michelle Buchi.

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