

ORTLEY BEACH VOTERS AND TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

General Membership Meeting

Saturday, June 15, 2024

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order – A call to Order was conducted by President, Anthony Colucci beginning the June 15, 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 gun 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, Debbie Barton, John Clarke, Joe Cantalupo, 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 May 11, 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 the financial statement note up through May 2024 showed a total operating income year-to-date of \$7,430.00 and through the month of May monthly is \$2,610.00. Year-to-date memberships are at 539 through the month of May with 713 year-to-date members. Total business members remain at 19. Expenses year-to-date amount to \$8,534.00 and for the month of May \$2,386.00.00. Our refreshments and meeting expenses year-to-date amount to \$1,676.00 with the Moose Hall rental year-to-date at \$400.00. The remaining expenses came from our transformation over from the Glue UP Operating System to the Neon One operating system and that included

an initial payment of \$1,827.00, so with the new speaker system and new operating system our total expenses year-to-date come in at \$8,524.00.

Cash at hand through the end of the May 2024 period includes money market and checking accounts at T&D Bank, a CD at the First Internet Bank of Indiana in the amount of \$20,000.00, a CD with WSFS for \$20,000.00 and a third CD in the amount of \$10,000.00 with WSFS. From our three CD's, we have \$944.00 that was recognized in January and all contribute to our total cash and instruments at the current time of \$73,289.00

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

7. OBVTA Election – John Clarke as Secretary for the OBVTA, addressed the General Membership concerning the 2024 Board of Directors election. As always, there were three Board of Director's seats up for election but there are only three candidates for those positions. In accordance with the OBVTA By-Laws, in scenarios where an individual is running unopposed, the Secretary will then cast a vote in favor of that individual for election. John Clarke cast votes on behalf of Anthony Colucci, Debbie Barton and Joe Cantalupo who are all elected to new three year OBVTA terms.

8. Guest Speaker Steven Rochette – Steven Rochette from the US Army Corp of Engineers graciously came up from Philadelphia to give a presentation to our membership with regard to the upcoming beach replenishment and related information. Steven Rochette is Chief of Public and Government Affairs for the US Army Corp of Engineers, Philadelphia District. He has served with the Army Corp of Engineers for the past 15 years and has been involved with a variety of water resource projects in the Mid-Atlantic region including coastal storm management studies and projects, dredging and beneficial use projects, and environmental restoration activities. He has deployed around the country to assist with Federal responses including Hurricane Irma (2016) Hurricane Sandy (2012) and 2011 flooding along the Mississippi River. He has a Master's Degree from Villanova University and a Bachelor's Degree from Boston University.

Steven Rochette indicated that with regard to the beach replenishment affecting Ortleigh Beach, the process involved will include the dunes being repaired and the

berm being replenished where it is needed. In addition, there will be new grass plantings planted in areas of the dunes that are repaired. In general, this is part of the four-year replenishment program (although he conceded that it has been 7 years since the initial replenishment). These beach replenishments allow for a 22 foot dune elevation and a substantial beach berm.

Steven Rochette indicates that the bid for the next round of replenishment will go out on June 28th. He hopes that once the bid goes out, that they can have a successful bid within 30 days and then depending on which dredging company is successful, they will schedule the replenishment program to begin as soon as possible, most likely at the earliest in the fall. With regard to our replenishment program, there will be 2.1 million yards of sand added to our dunes and/or the beach berm.

Mr. Rochette asked for patience as the equipment needed to conduct these repairs is very scarce as there are only 12-14 of these dredger ships available nationally.

With regard to the dune grass planting, Steven Rochette indicated that they are studying different types of dune grass to determine what is best to have in place on the particular dunes. Wind blown sand actually nourishes the dune plants and shrubs so that this dune grass that they have been using has been shown to grow better on the side facing the ocean. On the side of the dune facing the opposite side of the ocean, it has been shown that the dune grass does not grow as well as they are not getting the same nourishment from the wind blown sand as the dune grass facing the ocean.

Steven Rochette did indicate that we are a targeted area to get more sand than other areas as Ortley Beach along with Mantoloking and Bay Head and areas similarly situated, are a hot spot and need greater repairs. The work itself is hopefully to start by the fall or winter.

There were a number of questions that were presented to Steven Rochette, some coming from Toms River Mayor, Daniel Rodrick, who was present during our meeting along with our local Councilman, Justin Lamb. Mayor Rodrick asked a question whether dropping structures along the waters not far from the beach would be successful. Another one of our members had also asked whether

dropping metal structures out in the shallower waters might help dissipate the energy and reduce the damage from the larger waves. Steven Rochette did indicate that they have been looking into these types of projects but for the most part these are done for ecological reasons and not for storm surge protection purposes. Likewise, questions were asked concerning jetties, but Mr. Rochette has indicated that they do not use these much more as on one side of the beach they may be gaining sand but on the other side, there are much greater adverse effects than if they had left it alone.

Overall, we are very thankful to the Army Corp of Engineers, and Steven Rochette in particular for addressing our constituency. The presentation was very well received by our membership and from comments made afterwards, greatly appreciated.

9. Guest Speaker, Mayor Dan Rodrick – Mayor Rodrick also fielded questions from our membership and also gave his thoughts on a couple of issues. Included therein, he discussed the boardwalk extension and the parking lot on the former Joey Harrison's Surf Club property. The Mayor indicated that this project will hopefully move forward in the fall but that they are working on improving the boardwalks and crossovers so some of them may be more like the crossover on Fielder Avenue. With regard to beach access, it was requested that the mats that are in Ortleby Beach and rolled off at the top of the dunes be placed down for easier access and egress from the beach berm. With these extra mats not being extended, holes develop, and it makes it very difficult to step up on the mat to attempt to leave the beach. There were also some issues and complaints about fire pits being on rooftops in Ortleby Beach and this being a hazardous and safety concern. Mayor Rodrick indicated that he, himself, has a fire pit but that if it is becoming a problem, that he will look into it.

Mayor Rodrick and Councilman Lamb stayed after the meeting and addressed members of the OBVTA directly. Both Mayor Rodrick and Councilman Lamb's appearance and attendance at our meetings is greatly appreciated and we look forward to working with them in the future.

10. Guest Speaker, Lieutenant Gene Bachonski - Lieutenant Bachonski gave his usual informative and entertaining presentation to our association. Lieutenant Bachonski started off by indicating that Memorial Day weekend was a mess not

only in Ortley Beach but up and down the coastal communities. With regard to calls over the weekend, he compared mainland to Ortley Beach and Normandy Beach. Taking out motor vehicle stops and parking complains, there were 845 calls on Memorial Day weekend in Toms River with Ortley Beach accounting for 51 of those but Normandy Beach accounting for 96 of those. Lieutenant Bachonski indicated that in Ortley Beach there were a lot of complaints about noise, cars, and large parties. Noise complaints for the Memorial Day weekend on the mainland were 63 but in Ortley Beach there were only 3. Disorderly persons complaints on the mainland were 61 and in Ortley Beach 5, and juvenile issues in Ortley Beach were 8 but in Normandy Beach there were 12. On Sunday, May 26th, at about 2:20 a.m., there were a large group of juveniles on the street and the Toms River Police Department just moved them on their way with instructions to go home. He did indicate that the curfew from 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. has assisted the Toms River Police Department in dealing with the youth issues.

In related issues, he indicated in Toms River there are about 100 mental health calls a month and the Toms Rive Police Department takes these very seriously. With regard to fraud, he indicated that his rule of thumb is don't trust anyone, keep your doors to your house and car locked, and don't answer your phone or answer emails if you don't know who they are coming from. Also, there appears to be a new scam that involves fake Amazon employees. People can but the Amazon vests right from Amazon and put them on and look like they are actual Amazon employees. They seem to be using these tactics to break into homes. As in the past, he indicated that the neighborhood watch is very informative, and he encourages residents to join.

There is a Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run scheduled for June 7th. Operation Brain Freeze and the Toms River Police Department Golf Outing are upcoming. The Junior Police Academy is scheduled for July 8th through the 12th. All particular information regarding all of these programs can be found on the Toms River website.

11. Guest, Laura Geronimo - Dr. Laura Geronimo is a recent graduate from the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University, New Brunswick. Previously she obtained her Master's Degree in City and Regional Planning from Georgia Tech. Her research focuses on coastal climate risk and resilience. Laura

provided a broad perspective on long-range (meaning multiple decades) community-driven (meaning bottom-up or grassroots) resilience planning. Her presentation is based on work for her dissertation over the past several years which has been funded by the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium and the National Science Foundation. Laura provided an overview of 5 topic areas: 1) coastal hazards, 2) responses to hazards, 3) diverse perspectives on how to respond to those hazards, 4) relevant hazard mitigation planning efforts, and 5) tools and resources that the community can tap into. Laura described past sea level rise (SLR) in New Jersey (about 1.5 feet over the past century), and future projections (we expect between 1-2ft of additional SLR by 2050 relative to a 2000 baseline). To date, Ortley Beach has mostly responded by elevating homes and roads, and nourishing beaches. However, there are uncertainties associated with ongoing beach nourishment activity. Laura introduced a framework for long-range resilience planning emerging from the Netherlands, called dynamic adaptive policy pathways. This framework allows communities to consider sequences of actions that can occur simultaneously or in parallel, with the hope of leading to the least-regrets pathway and avoiding infrastructure failures or chaotic displacement. Laura provided links to resources at Rutgers University, including [NJADAPT](#), a suite of tools that allows communities to assess their risk and plan for the future. Laura also pointed out that the Ocean County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan is going through an update and has a workshop open to the public on June 27th, which she encourages community members to attend.

11. Close of Meeting - A motion was then brought to have the June 15, 2024, General Membership meeting brought to a close and that was unanimously approved.