

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

General Membership Meeting

Saturday, May 11, 2024

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order – A call to Order was conducted by President, Anthony Colucci beginning the May 11, 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, Joe Cantalupo, Cathy Crisafulli, and Mike Wyms, 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 April 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 the April 2024 financials from dues and payments came to a net amount of \$4,618.00. Year-to-date memberships amount to 539 with 4 new members during the month of April and 113 renewals. Total members amounts to 713 and total businesses remain at 19. The money market year-to-date was \$4.00 and the CD income was \$944.00. Total operating income year-to-date is \$5,542.00 and monthly income was \$3,721.00. Expenses for the month amounted to \$1,416.00 for refreshments and meeting supplies plus \$200.00 for the hall rental. Additional expenses were incurred as we are in the process of transferring from the GlueUp Operating System to Neon.

The initial payment to Neon is \$1,997.00 and the data transfer was \$3,440.00. Miscellaneous expenses include \$220.00 for post office fee and \$4,167.00 for the new speaker system. Total expenses year-to-date include \$8,184.00 and that is the same amount for the month of April.

Cash at hand is \$10,930.00 in a money market and checking is \$10,294.00 for \$21,224.00 cash in T&D Bank. We currently have three CD's, one for \$20,000.00 at the First Internet Bank of Indiana, another \$20,000.00 at WSFS and a third \$10,000.00 CD at WSFS. The total cash in instruments currently stands at \$72,160.00. The motion was made to accept the April 2024 financial report and was accepted by all Directors.

7. Guest Speaker Lieutenant Gene Bachonski - Lieutenant Bachonski presented to the General Membership and his usual informative and entertaining manner. Lieutenant Bachonski discussed the juvenile issue that we have dealt with in the past few years. He reiterated that Chief Little has signed a curfew limiting juveniles not to be allowed on the streets between 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. from May 24<sup>th</sup> to September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Lieutenant Bachonski indicated that his staff closely monitors social media and has been very effective in the past year in identifying pop up parties. In addition, there has been increased police presence responding to juvenile issues and this includes mutual aid from other communities, county and state resources.

Lieutenant Bachonski indicated that they are accepting applications for full time police between May 1<sup>st</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup>. There are requirements to have a four-year degree or preferences of two years of military and two years of police force. The applicants are subject to written and physical interviews. In 1998, there were 800 applicants for the position (including Lieutenant Bachonski who ranked #4) but in 2021, there were only 200. As of the current time, there have only been 10 applicants that have applied for these positions.

Lieutenant Bachonski reminded the membership that there is a neighborhood watch program that meets the first Thursday of each month. He indicated that the Toms River Police Department receives about 195 calls per day resulting in numerous arrests. Lieutenant Bachonski also indicated that a fundraiser for the Special Olympics that is run by the Toms River Police Department, a Police Camp for juveniles, and a golf outing, all of which have more information listed on the

website. Lieutenant Bachonski also indicated and reminded the membership that even if someone invades your vehicle or your property that self defense is certainly limited and that if deadly force is to be used, it must be found that the person using such force was in imminent danger of losing their life before self defense can be properly asserted. In New Jersey, there is a duty to retreat and if there is an opportunity to retreat, the victim must do so.

8. Guest Speaker, Britta Forsberg – Britta Forsberg was the first of our guest speakers for the 2024 General Membership season. Ms. Forsberg is the Executive Director of Save Barnegat Bay and gave an extremely informative and comprehensive presentation concerning the activities of the Save Barnegat Bay Organization. Ms. Forsberg went into detail on the importance of Barnegat Bay and the Save Barnegat Bay Organization. Barnegat Bay runs from Bayhead all the way down to Little Egg Harbor and is 42 miles long and has an area of 64 square miles. Ecologically, the Barnegat Bay water shed provides habitats such as barrier islands, marine forests, salt marshes, and a variety of ecological systems. These ecological systems provide homes to a large number of animal species including many fish and birds. Barnegat Bay is also used recreationally by many visitors who engage in boating, fishing, and many other activities in the bay.

Ms. Forsberg also briefly went into the Ciba-Geigy chemical corporation settlement and its effect, or lack thereof, on Toms River Township. She is aware that the company dumped its toxic cancer causing chemicals.

Ms. Forsberg's presentation was extremely well received by the General Membership and the OBVTA greatly thanks her for her presentation to our membership.

Save Barnegat Bay is always looking for donations and funding to support their great organization. OBVTA will be providing them with a grant. You can get involved with Save Barnegat Bay, or contribute to their cause if you wish, using this link: <https://savebarnegatbay.org/donate/>

9. Informational Update – Island Beach State Park Events – Originally, the OBVTA had hoped to have one of the Lieutenants from Island Beach State Park make a presentation to our membership for upcoming events for the 2024 summer season. Unfortunately, they were unable to appear and, in their stead,

John Clarke presented the events to the General Membership. Mr. Clarke indicated that the events primarily begin in the June 2024 calendar month. On June 21<sup>st</sup>, there is a full strawberry super moon gathering that takes place between 4 and 9:30 p.m. This is a free event that will include a bonfire with smores, gentle beginner yoga, and other yoga sessions, breath work, guided meditation, singing bowls, crystal energy, self love physic soul readings and more. On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, there will be a clamming by kayak program that will take place between 9 and 11:00 a.m. This program will cost \$25.00 and all will be instructed to learn about clamming and why clams are so important to Barnegat Bay. It is a rain or shine program, as all the programs are, and all supplies will be supplied by the Island Beach State Park program. On the 23rd, there will be a Sedge Island Kayak Eco Tour that will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m at a cost of \$25.00. It will be an opportunity to learn about the park's history and diverse species found throughout Island Beach State Park. There be another similar tour that will take place on June 26<sup>th</sup>. On June 27<sup>th</sup>, there will be a sunset paddle from 7-9:00 p.m. that will also cost \$25.00 per person. It will be an opportunity to kayak out onto the bay and enjoy a potentially beautiful sunset at the Sedge Island Marine conservation zone. On June 28<sup>th</sup>, there will be an Island Beach State Park Star party that is free. It will be under the guidance of the Astronomical Society of Toms River. This will take place between 9-11:00 p.m. Another sunset paddle will take place on Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at a cost of \$25.00.

Other events include joining Park Natural Educators for some free fun. Many of these events allow you to explore the natural wonders of Island Beach State Park, include touch tanks, seining, and interpretive skills. Island Beach State Park Naturalists will be underneath the Pavilion everyday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. starting in mid June and ending Labor Day weekend. There will be the touch tank talks that occur daily from 12:30 – 3:00 p.m. and seining where we can take a short interpretive native plant walk to Barnegat Bay with the expert naturalists. This occurs daily at 11:00 a.m. and again at 2:00 p.m.

These programs can all be found on the Island Beach State Park website and our members are strongly encouraged to utilize Island Beach State Park and its wonderful programs and events.

Island Beach State Park will run programs in July and August similar to those outlined at our meeting in June. Access to the programs and events can be accessed through the link: <https://www.islandbeachnatureprograms.org/>

10. Committee Notes – John Clarke gave an update from the beach committee and indicated that the Toms River beach repairs are currently under way and are being performed by Earle Construction Company as the meeting was taking place. Given the timing of the start of these repairs, Toms River assures the OBVTA that the beaches and the entrances should be open by Memorial Day weekend. In addition, the Army Corp. of Engineers has advised Mr. Clarke that they are all set for their presentation in our June 2024 General Membership meeting. We anticipate this to be a very informative and largely attended meeting. With regard to the actual replenishment program, the Army Corp. of Engineers advises that they are going through the final reviews and clearance to advertise the contract. Bid openings typically follows one month thereafter and then a contract will be awarded shortly thereafter. The Army Corp. of Engineers indicates that **IF** the Army Corp of Engineers receives favorable bids, construction could begin as early as late summer or fall. This all depends on who the successful bidder is and their other outstanding jobs and equipment plans.

Mr. Clarke indicated that he has also requested that a meeting with Justin Lamb and the appropriate beach personnel to discuss a variety of issues including but not limited to the location of the badge checkers, beach rules signage, removal of advertisements on the fencing, railings on the walkway once they are repaired, updates on the tent and oversized umbrella ordinance and maintenance of the beach throughout the summer season.

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