

ORTLEY BEACH VOTERS AND TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

General Membership Meeting

Saturday, October 19, 2024

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order – A call to Order was conducted by President, Anthony Colucci beginning the October 19, 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; Anthony Colucci, Paul Jeffrey, John Clarke, Joe Cantalupo, Cathy Crisafulli, Joan Strathern and Mike Wymbms.
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 September 21, 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 Secretary, John Clarke, as our Treasurer, Debbie Barton, was unavailable for October’s meeting. Total operating year-to-date income is \$12,036.00 and for the month of September, \$1,165.00. Year-to-date we have 654 memberships. In addition, we have 20 total business members.

Year-to-date expenses total \$13,820.00 and for the month of September expenses amounted to \$1,046.00. Our net income for the 2024 year-to-date was -\$1,784.00.

Total cash in hand amounts to \$72,846.00 with \$11,803.00 in a money market account at TD Bank and the checking account has \$10,099.00. We also have the 3 CD's that we have invested which will have \$944.00 income recognized in January.

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

7. Guest Speaker – Ocean County Sheriff Michael Mastronardi – Sheriff Mastronardi addressed the members in an entertaining and informative manner. Sheriff Mastronardi indicated that he has 50 years of law enforcement experience up through and including the Ocean County Sheriff. He has worked his way up through the Toms River Police Department and was named Chief of the Toms River Police Department in 1992. He served in that capacity until his retirement in 2013 and is currently serving his fourth term as Ocean County Sheriff. Sheriff Mastronardi touted the many accomplishments of the Ocean County Sheriff's Department over the many years. He went into detail in describing the Sherp vehicles that were some of the first to be employed in New Jersey and have experienced great success. These multi-faceted vehicles have become integral in the Ocean County Sheriff's Department and have aided in saving lives. Sheriff Mastronardi also discussed the role of drones and cameras that have been installed throughout his tenure in the Ocean County Sheriff's Department and their vital roles in crime solving and public safety. Overall, Sheriff Mastronardi made a fine presentation to the membership that was very much appreciated and well received by the OBVTA.

Guest Speaker - New Toms River Police Chief, Peter Sundack and our new liaison, Lieutenant, Ron Sermarini – The Toms River Police Department went over the beach statistics for our membership. The beach statistics from June 1, 2024 to the current time indicated that there were 1,877 total calls including one overdose, six domestic violence, 74 crashes, two DUI's, 272 traffic stops, four burglaries, 43 juvenile problems and 256 first aid calls in which EMS responded and 140 first aid squads in which the Police Department responded. All in all, Chief Sundack felt that overall the 2024 beach season was a huge success with police involvement activities at a fairly low amount. Juvenile problems also seemed to be well corralled which he indicated that their activities monitoring social media accounts greatly assisted in the halt of pop-up parties and the like in

the Ortley Beach area. We look forward to continued cooperation with the Toms River Police Department especially with our new Chief and new liaison.

Guest Speaker - Councilman, Justin Lamb – Councilman Lamb addressed our General Membership and fielded questions from our membership. Question included issues involving flooding, especially by the Coolidge Avenue Bayside areas. Possible resolutions were raising the streets and Justin Lamb indicated that they would be engaging in a study and check the values to see what solutions could be entertained. Questions were also had with regard to pop-up parties and their association with Air BNB's and Councilman Lamb indicated that he was not aware of any association but would also look into these issues. Councilman Lamb also addressed questions concerning EMT's and indicated that there have been 18 new hires of EMT's in Toms River and that mutual aid between Lavalette and potentially Tri-Boro would continue to be utilized if necessary. There was also some discussion as to the Ocean County Utility Authority land off of Fielder Avenue. This will continue to be pressed to attempt to utilize some portions of that property for public enjoyment in Ortley Beach. Memorial benches were also discussed and Councilman Lamb indicated that there are 95 spots available and these benches would continue to be looked at to see whether or not placement of these memorial benches can continue in the future.

8. Army Corp. of Engineers Beach Replenishment Update – John Clarke reported on the latest updates regarding the Army Corp. of Engineers Beach Replenishment. Paul Jeffrey had previously reached out to Congressman Smith's office and was told that the latest second round of bids had come back and they were 11 million dollars over budget. Apparently, the high cost was most likely due to the Army Corp. moving very slowly and the time resulting in the delay caused prices to go up. A real problem that we were informed by Congressman Smith's office was that the bids were only good until October 18th and that they would need to have an extension if they were to be entertained. However, it looked like until the end of October that if a bid was not assigned by that time, the bids may have to go out and be rebid in the beginning of 2025.

HOWEVER, we were informed by both the Army Corp. of Engineers, specifically, Steven Rochet, and continued conversations with Congressman Smith's office that a contract has been awarded to the Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company. John Clarke was informed that the schedule for the beach replenishment should

be released in the next week or two and that both Congressman Smith's office and the Army Corp. of Engineers are hopeful that this will be proceeding in late fall or winter of this year. This is great news and what we have been looking forward to.

There has been a great deal of information released in the news on this topic since our meeting and it has been established that Ortley Beach will receive the greatest amount of sand of any of the locations stemming from South Seaside Park up through Point Pleasant. Once the schedule is released on this matter, we will share the same with our membership.

9. Holiday Christmas Party – The Holiday Christmas Party was discussed and an agreement has been signed with Gigi's to host the 2024 OBVTA Christmas Party. The location of the party will be at Gigi's Restaurant located on Route 35 North in Ortley Beach, NJ on December 14, 2024 from 6-10 p.m. Cocktail hour will be from 6-7 p.m. and music will be provided by the restaurant at that time. All of those interested in signing up for the Christmas Party should do so as soon as possible as we have a limited number of spaces available for this party. We are very excited to be keeping the party in Ortley Beach as it will benefit not only our local Ortley Beach restaurant but also our Ortley Beach residents.

10. Close of Meeting - A motion was then brought to have the October 19, 2024, General Membership meeting brought to a close and that was unanimously approved.