ORTLEY BEACH VOTERS AND TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

General Membership Meeting
Saturday, September 19, 2026
Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order – A call to Order was conducted by Vice President, Paul Jeffrey, beginning the September 19, 2026 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 in the Iran war and 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; Vice President, Paul Jeffrey, Secretary, John Clarke, Treasurer, Debbie Barton, Joe Cantalupo, Joan Strathern, Gail D'Amico and Ginny Morrisey.

4. Quorum – Secretary, John Clarke, determined that as 40 members of the membership were present at the meeting that a quorum was established.

5. Minutes – The minutes from the August 15, 2026 General Membership meeting were presented and accepted by a vote of the General Membership.

6. The Treasurer's Report was presented by the OBVTA Treasurer, Debbie Barton. Dues payments up through the month of August amounted to $230.00 and year-to-date was $7,333.00. Total income year-to-date is $8,774.00 and for the month was $560.00. Total expenses for the month amounted to $2,659.00 and year-to-date is $12,217.00. Total cash on hand including our money in TD Bank and investments, amounts to $65,777.00.

Total memberships for the OBVTA amount to 528 with businesses totaling 19 (15 of which have paid). The memberships include a reduction of 84 who had last paid through 2024 and were now removed. It should be noted that there are additional unpaid members through 2025 that we are attempting to follow up with and are attempting to have those members continue their membership.

Membership was a continuing theme throughout the General Membership meeting. The Board of Directors, as well as the General Membership agreed to make a concerted effort in the 2027 calendar year to increase our general membership including both the families and the businesses.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted unanimously by the General Membership.

7. Guest Speakers – The General Membership meeting was hopeful to have potential guest speakers of Police Chief Guy Maire, new Parks Director, Patrick Beebee, and/or Councilman Robert Bianchini. Unfortunately, none of the guest speakers were able to appear although we are hopeful to have them speak at the upcoming meeting.

8. Board Member Comments – The Board members had a variety of topics that needed to be addressed. Included therein was an advisement to our membership that paving to repair the streets from the water line installation on Coolidge and Eisenhower will be taking place from September 22nd through September 25th and that those residents living on these streets should be advised and be prepared for issues and delays.

Also addressed by the Board members was Debbie Barton advising the General Membership of the Christmas party. The Christmas party this year is once again going to be held at the Moose Lodge as it was last year. All those who were in attendance agreed that it was a very favorable location from a space standpoint and an entertainment standpoint. The Christmas party will take place on Saturday, December 5, 2026 and more details will follow at the October General Membership meeting.

Another topic addressed was the potential dune grass planting. The dune grass delivery date has not been received by Toms River as of the date of the General Membership meeting and once it is received, we will notify the membership of our annual dune grass planting. It was agreed that in the past this has been a huge success and that there are several areas that need to be planted. John Clarke indicated that he will once again this week be reaching out to the Toms River Parks Department and/or the Department of Public Works to ascertain the time of the arrival of the dune grass in order to schedule the same.

Gail D'Amico also addressed the General Membership with a house/business holiday decorating competition for Ortley Beach. There was some discussion on this topic and all thought that this was an excellent idea to bring the community together. Exact details of the holiday decorating competition will be forthcoming and will be addressed in more detail at the October General Membership meeting.

Paul Jeffrey also advised the General Membership that we had hats which we were giving out at the door upon people exiting the General Membership meeting.

9. Member Comments – Issues that were raised included dune grass planting in a vacant area by the Golden Gull. This was an issue that has been addressed in the past and the membership was advised that we were not allowed to plant dune grass in that area due to some prohibition that resulted when the dunes and the beach replenishment took place. It was believed that there was some sort of easement that was granted to the Golden Gull that did not allow us to plant in that area.

Another issue that was raised was the membership drive. Ideas such as placing banners in and around the area of the beach advertising the OBVTA, setting up tents and stands by the lifeguard stations during the important times including season badge sales and potentially having business cards purchased and produced at our supporting businesses that may have a QR code that would immediately send someone to our website for the membership application were ideas that were raised and were well received by the General Membership. These ideas and others will be discussed at upcoming Board of Directors meetings.

Also, issues included concerns about Salty Dick's and the blocking of the sidewalks at Salty Dick's and Ricky Bagels. There were also some concerns about the name itself being somewhat non representative of Ortley Beach as a whole.

Issues were raised concerning the attendance at Toms River Council meetings and the behavior of all parties involved at the council meetings. There is little that the OBVTA can do to address these matters especially the conduct at the council meetings but we still wish to attend and monitor all things going forward in Toms River.

10. Close of Meeting - A motion was then brought to have the September 19, 2026, General Membership meeting brought to a close and that was unanimously approved.