

Ortley Beach Voters and Taxpayers Association

November 2017 General Membership Meeting

Saturday November 18, 2017

Meeting called to order at 9:30am

Attendance: Anthony Colucci, Paul Jeffrey, Mike Wymbs, MaryAnn Giordano, Joe Cantalupo, Toni Tomarazzo, Cathy Crisafulli, Kathy Barisciano, Joan Strathern

Regrets: Mike Wymbs, Joe Cantalupo, Kathy Barisciano

A Quorum of members were present.

The minutes of the October 2017 OBVTA General Membership meeting were accepted.

Treasurer's Report

\$64,503 in Bank. Currently approximately \$3000 ahead of budget for the year. Year end expenses will include subsidy of the holiday party, if needed.

Motion to accept was made, accepted and voted to approve.

Membership:

Steve Sherrill advised that this year was a high water mark, 19 members over last year but this is understated. Five or six additional paid memberships were not included so there are approximately 475 members by year end which is a record for this organization.

Special Guest Chief Little

Sends his thanks for the invitation and appreciates the opportunity to address the organization again. His officers regularly attend.

Toms River Police department is staffed at 160. In 2017 there were three shootings and nine officers were involved. Four of the officers are out on disability as a result of these unfortunate incidents. Toms River Police Department has hired about 60 officers in the last eight years to replace retirements and departures.

Changing assignments in Ortley with extended day shifts instead of traffic officers and a sergeant. The police also started a quality of life task force with code enforcement, fire etc in undercover and uniform to look for problematic businesses and people that need to be reviewed.

Besides fighting crime, PD is marketing themselves to connect with the community. New resource officers in the schools. Hope is that there is a retired police officer in every single school in our town. Hoping to recruit police officers who have retired within five years.

Bigs in Blue program where officers will be mentors for the kids. There are many children in need. Officers will go to the schools and spend time with the kids. Looking to expand drug programs.

Question:

Winter in Ortley Beach, now that substation closed – where do the police stage? Answer – coverage does not change much. Someone constantly stationed in Ocean Beach and Ortley Beach. Per area Ortley Beach is covered better than any other place in Toms River.

Question:

Police cover Route 35 – will the police cover other roads. Answer: Mentioned a letter in the paper where families were targeted on the mainland. Answer – chief said that Toms River has all Toms River residents covered. The article mentioned the need for additional coverage from Lakewood Community Patrol for some areas. Chief Little said that there is no need for Lakewood Community Patrol to come in to Toms River to protect Toms River residents.

Question:

Question regarding police coverage. If you are away for the winter what are the Toms River Police doing to identify potential issues. Answer: give address to the Police so that patrol can be informed. Officers are here in Ortley twenty four hours per day. Toms River Police watch the crime stats (data driven patrol to crime and safety) – this tells officers where things are happening. Can target areas if there are any patterns of problems.

Alarm registration program: \$25 per year so that the alarm is registered. Two call verification. TR handles 5000 false alarms per year. The registration helps reduce the false alarms and ensure compliance. Goal is to reduce the false alarms by 60%.

OBVTA has the link for registering the alarm on our website under useful links. Or on the website www.TRPolice.org

Sgt Bachonski

Class one program ahead of the game – application was put out yesterday for seasonal class one for 2018. Anyone interested should apply. \$13.00 per hour. The applications are on the Toms River police department website noted above and the Toms river website.

Jingle Bells Run Dec 3 is coming up. Polar Bear plunge in Seaside Heights is February 4, 2018.

Upcoming holiday season – please lock your doors – houses, cars. Crimes are often crimes of opportunity. Consider a video to cover the outside of your homes that can be checked by cell phone or computer.

Question – what is the best place to put a video camera? Answer – anything that can get your front door. Catch front and back door. A potential crime is perpetrators ring the front bell and if no answer go to the back and try and break in. Another typical assault are criminals throwing block through a window to enter. Helpful to have night vision. Options include Vintag, Nest and many others etc. Helpful to have a memory or a monthly service to store in the cloud.

Sandy Memorial

Oct 29, in partnership with St. Elizabeth, over 100 people attended to mark the five year anniversary of Sandy. After the service (and three batisms) people stayed. Businesses and residents donated food and baked goods. Maryann and Anthony and Sharon went out in the horrible weather and scattered the sand that was put together by the community. Very positive spirit and a wonderful community event.

Holiday Party and Holiday Lights

Party will be on December 9 at the Park Pavillion (on top of the SawMill in Seaside Park). Accepting registration until December 1. Open to members and guests. Five piece band will be playing.

Holiday lights are already up and lit for the holiday season.

National Flood Insurance Program renewal

Expired in September and was temporarily extended to November. The Safe NFIPAC that was drafted by Senator Menendez. There is an alternative proposal written by NJ Congressman Tom MacArthur which does not provide the same treatment. The MacArthur proposal treats primary and secondary home rates very differently. The premium cap is \$10,000 per year – which is very high. The current bill requires that any discounts come as raises to everyone else in the State.

Paul Jeffrey asked that everyone write Tom MacArthur about Safe NFIP be approved vs some of the issues in the Tom MacArthur proposed bill.

Bill is out of committee and it is expected to be moved by early December.

NJ Congressman MacArthur has been very active in pushing Donald Trump's agenda and his NFIP proposal is very similar to what Donald Trump discussed.

Question: under the current bill is it still \$250,000 max coverage. Answer: Under Safe NFIP there was a proposal to allow a higher coverage at increased premium.

NJ Organizing Project is holding a number of meetings on NFIP and on tax reform. On Tuesday, Surf Taco is contributing 25% of every purchase to NJ Organizing Project. If you want to help NJ Organizing Project direct contributions can be made to NJ Organization Project .

Updates

Kayak Ramp – sent township info on all of the sites that have been discussed for the last several years. Still waiting for the township to make a decision.

Paving Project: Earl Asphalt will start on the bayside with Harborside and Spindrift. The paving is not expected to start until the spring of 2018

Dune replenishment continues to be delayed due to storms that required the movement of equipment. Ortley Beach will be completed after Seaside Heights in early 2018.

New Business

OBVTA has supply of hats for new members. Bob Amato donated the hats for members. Let Anthony or Paul know if you need one.

American Legion – Member Bill thanks the OBVTA for the wreath donation on Memorial Day and asked any veterans that are interested in joining to contact someone at the Post. The Shore Boros VFW made a promise to a WWII Veteran - Mr. Parisi – that they would get him a certificate. But his contact information was unavailable so if anyone knows him pls have him get in contact with the VFW in Seaside Heights.

Question: Surf Club. We understand that it has been sold. Nothing official from the township yet. Nothing on Ocean County website. If the condos approved for that site are planned - will have to go to the planning board and the information will be available.

Question: any information on the Gateway for Ortley Beach – a physical presence when you enter Ortley Beach. Answer – waiting for the streetscape grant information.

Friends of Ortley Beach

Membership drive starting. Last year we had Shakespeare in the Park and lots of other events. The 250 year anniversary for Ortley Beach is making a time capsule and any suggestions for items to be included.

The FOB needs additional board members – including a Secretary and Treasurer.

Next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for April 2018. The date, time and location will be published.

Meeting adjourned 10:30