

Ortley Beach Voters and Taxpayers Association

April 2018 General Membership Meeting

April 21, 2018

Attendance: Anthony Collucci, Paul Jeffrey, Toni Tomarazzo, Cathy Crisafulli, Joan Strathern, Mike Wymb, Joe Cantalupo, Maryann Giordano

Regrets: Kathy Barisciano

Quorum established.

Acceptance of 2017 Nov General Membership meeting- minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report

By Steve Sherrill. Two things of note on 2018 proposed budget –first - the OBVTA started with cash balance in the high \$50,000s carried over from 10-15 years ago. In 2018 the organization is starting with \$63,000 in treasury because in 2017 it was budgeted for beach jam to cost the OBVTA \$1500 but the event resulted in a profit of \$2000 – these funds plus income from memberships and other smaller cost savings related to line items like website maintenance for example resulted in the increase in cash.

Second – this budget for 2018 is similar to other budgets with an expected membership of 450 members – (in 2017 the OBVTA had 467 paid memberships...a 10 year high.).

So far 2018 membership is 12% behind same period one year ago – but additional memberships are expected in April during the first general membership meeting and more as residents return to the shore.

The 2018 budget also calls for additional budgeting for advocacy on behalf of issues important to the membership. In addition funds were budgeted for the welcome back breakfast for the membership during the April 2018 meeting.

The 2018 budget was moved and adopted.

The OBVTA announced that the Friends of Ortley Beach are not associated with the OBVTA and the OBVTA will NOT collect their fees at OBVTA meetings nor does the OBVTA monitor the manner in which that organization operates, accounts for funds or monies raised or spent or any activities they may or may not participate in over the course of the year.

Special Guests:

Councilwoman Maria Maruca and Business Administrator Don Guardian and Councilman Mo Hill

-Beach cleanup underway on April 21. Weather makes it a challenge today.

-Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) beach and dune project – engineer staff from Toms River goes to weekly meetings. The ACOE just finished work in Mantaloking and just started work in Brick. A website link is available on the Toms River website (www.tomsrivertownship.com)– under Sandy Information there is an ACOE link giving information on the status of the project. The firm hired by the ACOE to complete the beach and dune project has another dredge available to work on the project and the Ortley project that is now planned to begin in late May through August. The Ortley project will start at Colony and work north. Approximately 1000 feet of beach will be blocked at any one time as the project progresses.

-paving project almost completed. Just a few more streets to be done. The vendor hired to do the paving covered Ortley beach in a small time frame with numerous crews.

-stripping project – took the 2009 stripping plans as a base and updated with aerial photos and plot plan since the storm. Inspectors are in the field to try and accommodate home owners. Attention is being paid to approvals for driveways and parking in front homes. For individual issues Ortley residents are asked to call the Toms River engineering department – Bob Chakalian or Wendy Birkhead at (732)341-1000 ext 8335

-kayak launch- Docksider marina will provide one spot for the kayak launch. The original plan was to put a kayak launch in at Bayside park but the environmental approvals were difficult and time consuming to obtain. Toms River for an alternative and explored buying a kayak launch that goes into a boat slip where you set the kayak launch and slip in to the water. The Docksider Marina will provide the one slip and Toms River will cover the cost. The time table will be dependent on the verbal agreement that is expected week of April 21. Expect completion by end of May.

Parking is not permitted – it is necessary to drop off the kayak and walk back to the marina. The OBVTA board has raised concerns about the lack of parking and additional work is being done to try and secure additional parking spaces or an alternative location.

-EMS lot...property will be cleaned and turned in to parking lot. The lot will be graded and crushed seashells down. Parking spots will be set up and there will be 3 entrances and dune grasses. Expect 50-60 spaces. This should be done by Memorial Day. This is temporary until plans for a permanent structure that may provide voting location, community center etc.

The OBVTA reminded the councilwoman that the organization requests an opportunity to participate in the final design and development of the property.

-St Elizabeth pipe burst due to cold weather and wooden floor buckled. Floors have to be repaired and trailers may be present while they conduct repairs.

-OBVTA BOD – Gov Murphy signed ban on offshore drilling.

-Quality of Life Group in TR- got the Pine Rest Motel (passed in 2016 but appealed and finally settled) . hopefully will be a Hampton Inns and the Red Roof Hotel closed.

-Surf Club Property –

-Abandoned property ordinance – per Don Guardian, Toms River business administrator this ordinance passed two weeks ago and takes 28 days to become law. The new ordinance requires 90 day notice to register as abandoned property – the ordinance gives township the authority to enter any time to do inspections. Have to maintain the landscaping, coverage on windows. \$750 registration first year, increasing costs each year to register abandon property. Failure to maintain the abandoned property or failure to register will result in \$2500 per day in fines. Taxes must continue to be paid. (Example – in Atlantic City 90% of property owned by financial institutions...financial institutions are required to comply as well.) Pls call Code Enforcement with any questions on abandoned property.

Question : does this apply to the vacant land?

Answer: Don Guardian replied that he believes it does and a copy of the ordinance is on line and can be reviewed. Councilwoman Maruca advised that if abandoned property was not kept up the Township will remediate and charge the home owner or put a lien on the property.

-Excessive Municipal Service Reductions – in a 60 day period if you are called after six calls (per unit) it is a \$300 fine. This is aimed at encouraging certain properties (for example under Air BNB or hotels with sort term rentals, rooming houses) to maintain good tenants.

-Toms River budget second year no increase and about \$1,000,000 less taxes for Township Taxes.

-Toms River has been rated the seventh safest town of the 540 municipalities in the State of NJ. Toms River has had an incredible decrease in 2016/2015 and 2017/2016. 160 police officers serve a large population. The test for new Toms River police has been announced.

Question: Harborside East stopped paving because street will be raised but could be 1 ½ years for pipes to be installed. Very bad potholes on 6th Ave Terrace.

Answer: Toms River got a grant of \$450,000 to do this project. But Councilwoman Maruca does not believe that the 1 ½ time frame is correct.

Question: A. Are rooming houses permitted in Toms River?

Answer: not permitted in Toms River (no bathroom or kitchen)

B. The flooding on the most recent storms caused by tidal flooding - can valves be put in to prevent this?

Answer: difficult to control tidal flooding. Toms River will look at options for valves but it is not effective. When the street was raised on Washington a review was done to see if blocking off the drains would help and it was learned that it would not because of the sand base, the water rises through the sand and the drains are not the primary source of the water – it comes up through the sand base.

Councilwoman Maruca stressed that email is the best way to reach the departments.

Question: Starting Dunes in May?

Answer: Good news - a barge has been repositioned and arrived in the area. Beach replenishment will be first and then the dunes will be started. Seagrass will be planted at the top of the dunes. Could go the whole summer but may be done by July.

Question: Surf Club?

Answer: Developer of the property wanted to stop Ocean Ave to build on it. Township did not like this and township offered a fly over high enough for fire engine to go under. Developers rejected this offer. Developer submitted a new plan on Friday.

Councilwoman Maruca expressed support for TomsRiver to purchase the property but there is a approval for 16 ocean front condos. Makes the property more expensive. Councilwoman Maruca said that she is supportive of TR buying that property. Trying to get five votes. Councilwoman is asking the council to get a valuation.

Don Guardian was asked to describe the land purchases done by Toms River in the last three years, where they are located, the prices paid and how the purchases were funded? The Surf Club property is a once in a lifetime opportunity. The township funds property purchases primarily in two ways....first using bonding collateralized by the open space tax collected or anticipated to be collected or straight bonding by the Township.

Five votes are needed to purchase the property. There is allegedly four votes. An additional vote is needed from at least on other councilperson to have the property purchased by the town.

Question: Protec the dunes – ticket violators. Can the lifeguards help enforce the rules?

Answer: protection for the dunes – fencing and railings and packed material to prevent climbing on the dunes. The fencing is an important part. Signs will be posted as to what can and can not be done on the beach. Lifeguards will be used to protect the dunes.

Special Guest Sargent Bachonski (gbachonski@trpolic.org) (732) 349-0150 x1284

-Chief Little sends regards and best wishes

-Class I officers will be on duty again this summer. Some returning officers will be on duty this year providing experience in covering the area.

-quality of life task force: new officers on force. It is said that officers have to serve 5 years before they have seen most "everything". New quality of life task force will help address many issues. They will take reports and have partnerships with other divisions like zoning etc to address different quality of life issues. .

-May 1 – starting application for new police officers. 4 year degree necessary.

-May 5 food fest in down town Toms River.

-May 6 – proposed of the opening of the bridge. It is believed that one lane of the Matthis Bridge is going to open for a period of time (not known how long this will be) – a second lane will be opened at some point until entire expanse is reopened.

Question: OBVTA member asked if there will still only be one lane going east bound? If only one lane need strong police presence. Last week one accident created three hour delay to head east bound .

Answer: Mathis Bridge will just have the right lane of the Mathis bridge will be open heading east bound. The Tunney Bridge, all three lanes going westbound will be open.

Question: New bridge is 50 years old. Are there plans to renovate the Tunney Bridge?

Answer: does not know but will research. The Township is not responsible for the bridge. The state NJDOT is responsible.

Will try to have officers available on the weekend to assist the traffic flow.

-May 26 seasonal officers begin. Some seasonal officers from 2017 are returning and can assist in helping the new officers. Will be from 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm - four to six officers. 9:30 to 4:00 pm crossing guards will also be present. Crossing Guards are needed.

Question: quality of life issues in Ortley Beach – task force. How does that work? Last fall the modular home builder put a house up on a windy day and the insulation blew out. The supervisor said he's clean it up but they did not do so. OBVTA member called the manager and the supervisor who still hadn't cleaned it up by nine pm. Rain the next day creating further problems. The question was the TR police were contacted – and they said didn't break the law and nothing can be done about it. Can the Quality Of Life Task Force Help?

Answer: this type of issue is typically dealt with by Code Enforcement.

Question: Please comment on alarm registration program?

Answer: Toms River has alarm registration program, should register with Toms River. Link on the OBVTA website. And a surveillance camera registration program with Toms River is launching. Toms River will know where the cameras are located and if there are issues the police can request information from the cameral owners.

Streetscape Grant

Cathy Crisafulli advised the membership that the grant is ready and we have to develop recommendations in conjunction with the Township for street lights etc. The street light options – a. decorative lighting where poles and electric needs to run b. put the lights on the street light posts and c. solar lighting option. About \$1,000,000 is available from the grant.

On Thursday April 26 members of the OBVTA BOD are going to Atlantic City at the invitation of Don Guardian, TR Business Administrator to see the various lighting in use in Atlantic City.

In addition to reviewing the Atlantic City lights a presentation by vendors offering solar lights will be arranged for a subsequent OBVTA meeting.

Other Issues:

-traffic study – review of traffic and pedestrian flow. OBVTA asking for review of some specific areas (Harding one way street, Eisenhower stop signs)

-Surf Club – OBVTA sent letter to town council and Mayor in April 2018 (see OBVTA website for copy of letter). Asking that the development proposed that requires the closing of Ocean Blvd be soundly rejected and the Township more promptly to acquire the Surf Club ocean front property.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:00 am