

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

General Membership Meeting

Saturday, June 18, 2022

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order – A call to order was conducted by president, Anthony Colucci.
  - A. Moment of reflection – A moment of silence and reflection was conducted by Board of Director Mike Wymbs and was observed by the Board of Directors and the membership.
  - B. Roll Call — Roll call was conducted by Secretary John Clarke and the following Board of Directors were present; Anthony Colucci, Paul Jeffrey, John Clarke, Cathy Crisafulli, Toni Tomarazzo, Mike Wymbs and Joe Cantalupo. Seven of the nine Board of Directors were present.
  - C. Establishment of Quorum — Under the Bylaws of the Ortley Beach Voters and Taxpayers Association, a quorum is needed for voting purposes and the quorum needed is 40 members to be present. Secretary John Clarke confirmed that an excess of 40 members were present and that a quorum be established.
2. Minutes – The minutes from the May, 2022 general membership meeting were presented and accepted by a unanimous vote from the Board of Directors.
3. Treasurers Report – John Clarke, reporting the treasurer's report in Debbie Barton's absence, went over the treasurers report and explained in detail the outstanding amounts owed, the cash at hand, and the budget for the 2022 operating year. The financial statement included that dues were our main source of income year to date and amounted to \$8194, with fees associated with the due payments amounting to \$103. Year to date memberships were 704 with year to date members standing at 913. It was reminded that dues are due by the end of June, 2022 for those who have not paid. The expenses relating to the actual May, 2022 meeting broke down as follows, refreshments amounted to \$146 and the hall rental and zoom related expenses amounted to \$580. During the time period between the May and June 2022 general membership meetings a gift was made by the Ortley Beach Voters and Taxpayers Association in the amount of \$250 to the Italian American Club to help Ukraine with its war effort. A total of \$9000 was raised by the Italian American Club by their benefit. Cash on hand includes money market sums totaling \$42,821 and the checking account at \$28,789. A special shout out was made to the Starlight Motel as their membership dues check was for \$250 rather than the standard amount of \$30. The Starlight Motel indicated that this was for all the hard work that the Ortley Beach Voters and Taxpayers Association do and OBVTA wanted to acknowledge this. The Board of Directors unanimously agreed to accept the treasurers report.
4. Guests — Mayor Mo Hill addressed the assembly in person at the general membership meeting. Items that were discussed included the following:

Ortley Beach beach damage and repairs - Mayor Hill the membership and acknowledged that there was substantial damage to the beach as a result of recent storms but that the repair work was underway. Mayor Hill indicated that a majority of the repairs had already taken place and that most of the beach entrances were open as of the time of the meeting. He indicated that the repairs to the dunes and some additional sand was going well and that the beaches would be open in full in the upcoming week. Mayor Hill did indicate that the beaches were tight but that as of the date of this meeting no plans were made to restrict beach badges, parking, or access to the beach. If the beaches became overcrowded then this issue would be addressed in the

future. Mayor Hill reminded all that the full replenishment of the beach would not be taking place until the fall at the earliest by the Army Corps of Engineers. The Mayor reiterated that overall the dunes had provided the protection that they were designed to do and that the Army Corps of Engineers recognized that there would be hotspots along the coast that would need additional attention in subsequent replenishment. The Army Corps of Engineers have apparently identified Ortley Beach, the Mantoloking area, and Bayhead as potential "hotspots" that would receive additional attention and possible specific replenishment. Mayor Hill addressed the issue that there were no signs posted for the public to keep off the dunes and indicated that signs would be posted in the dunes and around the entrances to remind the public to keep off the dunes.

Boardwalk Repairs – Mayor Hill stated that the repairs to the boardwalk had been completed.

EMS Response Time — Mayor Hill addressed concerns arising over what is perceived to be issues with the EMS response time in recent incidents, and future EMS response times. Mayor Hill contended that the current system that is set up is providing more than adequate services to the island community specifically Ortley Beach. Mayor Hill did state that there will be a rig during the day on the island from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Furthermore, Mayor Hill did acknowledge that Toms River will look into having Triboro be the first responder when the rig on the island isn't present.

Curfew - In response to recent complaints and issues, Mayor Hill stated that a curfew was in effect for those under the age of 18 from 11 PM to 5 AM. It was discussed that this was an hour later than neighboring towns, but the mayor felt that this curfew would help alleviate some of the issues that were taking place on the island with regard to underage disturbances. If it turned out that 11 PM was not a satisfactory starting time, the town would look into starting the time earlier.

Garbage Removal - Garbage removal at the beach was discussed as this has been an issue in recent weeks. There were complaints that excessive garbage was piling up in and around the garbage cans at the beach and that they were not being picked up promptly. Mayor Hill indicated that garbage removal would be started after the lifeguards went off duty and the first thing in the morning to help resolve this issue.

Bay Avenue concerns - The membership raised issues that dangerous conditions were present for those exiting and entering the crossovers on Bay Avenue in Ortley Beach. Some of the trees were overgrown and this was creating site line issues that were presenting dangerous traffic conditions. Mayor Hill responded that toms River would look into resolving the situation.

Lightning detectors/alarms - A new lightning detection and alarm system was being installed at the lifeguard houses in Ortley Beach. The installation of the system was scheduled to take place by the last week of June. There were possibly some concerns that if these systems became oversensitive that it may become a nuisance. Mayor Hill did indicate that in some situations there is an override the system that can be manually handled by the lifeguards. Nevertheless, with regard to recent safety issues, specifically in Seaside Park, this will help ensure the safety of the general public at the beach.

McDonald's property - A question from the membership was raised to the mayor concerning the possibility that the McDonald's property could be purchased by Toms River and could be used as a multi faceted Ortley Beach community center and/or staging area. Mayor Hill stated that this was the first time that he had heard of this possibility but indicated that this is a privately owned property and the Toms River has no control over the sale and/or purchase of the property. OBVTA did indicate that they would look into whether or not the current owners would have any interest in selling or leasing the property.

Bulletin board - A question was posed whether the area around the newly installed bulletin board near the northern lifeguard house could be cleaned up and possibly have crushed shells around the base to enhance its appearance. Toms River will look into this possibility.

Clean Communities Grants - There was a recent article in local newspapers that a substantial sum of money was awarded to Toms River in the form of a clean communities grant. The question was posed to Mayor Hill as to whether these funds were properly being allocated and whether these funds could be used towards specific issues in Ortley Beach. Mayor Hill basically indicated that these monies were placed in the general fund and were used for the benefit of Toms River as a whole.

Beach Contact - A question was raised as to who the public in contact directly with regard to issues concerning the beach itself. Mayor Hill indicated that the appropriate representative was Jared Tate the head of the Toms River parks and recreation department.

Guests continued Fire Commissioners - Also present at the general membership meeting were the Fire Commissioners for district 1 who graciously showed up to discuss concerns the membership had with regard to recent fires that occurred in Ortley Beach. One concern that was raised was how to address issues that occurred during a snowstorm in which the fire hydrants become buried after the streets are plowed. The fire commissioners did acknowledge that this was an issue and that generally the public would clean out a fire hydrant on their property but that that isn't a real solution in Ortley Beach as during the winter many of the houses are vacant. There were some discussion as to whether volunteer fire department members could attempt to clean the hydrants and/or whether Toms River DPW could undertake the task. It was agreed that this is an issue and that the fire commissioners will look into it and work on a plan. Basically the same response was had with regard to markers on the fire hydrants to help the fire departments locate the hydrants during an emergency if they are covered by snow. The fire commissioners did indicate that the fire departments do have a map of all the local hydrants so that they know where the hydrants are located in the case of an emergency. Flow tests of all of the Hydrants are not conducted by the fire departments but rather need to be conducted by New Jersey American Water. The commissioner stressed that the public needs to reach out to New Jersey American Water and raise concerns as the parent company of New Jersey American Water actually is a company in France who does not seem overly concerned with issues unless the public voices their concerns.

With regard to issues concerning the recent fires in Ortley, the Fire Commissioners discussed in detail each of the fires and the time frames within which the fire department responded and the time it took to actually get water on the fires. The fire commissioners handle these questions in great detail and were clearly aware of issues that were raised and address them concisely. With

regard to the fire on Fielder Avenue this past winter, there were some concerns that the fire hydrant located near the fire was not used and that water was not coming from that hydrant. The commissioners disputed that and said that their hydrant was, in fact, operational but that the water connection/line from that hydrant was smaller and due to the size of the fire a strategic decision was made to go to the hydrant on Route 35 as this would produce a much greater flow of water that would help more quickly put out that particular fire.

Guests Continued — Lieutenant Bachonski of the Toms River Police Department was present and he detailed the status of the issues involving police involvement in Ortley Beach. Lieutenant Bachonski went through the statistics that he had including that as of May 1 there were 266 calls for service that were responded to by the Toms River Police Department and that majority of these had to do with juvenile problems. Lieutenant Bachonski went into some detail that the police departments hands are tied by the recent passage of the legalization of marijuana and specifically the Juvenile Cleanup Law. He stressed that if the public has an issue with the juvenile law that you call your state representative and the attorney general's office. Lieutenant Bachonski also addressed concerns specifically that were raised at the May general membership meeting of the Ortley Beach Voters and Taxpayers Association where basically it was indicated that the Toms River Police Department would not probably respond on July 4 for fireworks. Lieutenant Bachonski said that the Toms River Police Department will respond to any and all calls that take place in as prompt a manner as possible. Lieutenant Bachowski also indicated that there was a curfew in place that would help alleviate some of the issues that the island communities, including Ortley Beach, have been having with juveniles. Questions were raised as to why the curfew starts at 11 o'clock and not 10 o'clock. Lieutenant Bachonski indicated that he was not the one who set the time but that if there was an issue moving forward that this was the chief of police's executive order and that if it needed to be switched to 10 o'clock that that might be a possibility in the future.

5. Election - The Board of Directors advised the membership that there were three seats up for election. Those vacancies on the Board of Directors were those currently being held by Paul Jeffrey, Mike Wymbs, and John Clarke. As set forth by the OBVTA Bylaws and also advised in previous meetings, any member who wished to run for the Board of Directors were encouraged to do so but needed to advise the board by May 7, 2022. No members advised the OBVTA of their desire to run and, as such, the three current board of directors ran unopposed. As such, the three returning Board of Directors were re-elected by a single vote by the Secretary in accordance with a Bylaws of the OBVTA.
  
6. A motion to close the meeting was brought and was unanimously agreed by the directors, thus bringing to a close the May OBVTA general membership meeting.