

ORTLEY BEACH VOTERS AND TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

General Membership Meeting

Saturday, May 14, 2022

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order – A call to order was conducted by president, Anthony Colucci.
 - A. Moment of reflection – A moment of 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, Debbie Barton, John Clarke, Cathy Crisafulli, Joan Strathern, Toni Tomarazzo, Mike Wymbs and Joe Cantalupo.
 - 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 April, 2022 general membership meeting were presented and accepted by a unanimous vote from the Board of Directors. Mike Wymbs moved to accept and Debbie Barton second in the motion and all Board of Directors agreed to accept the May, 2022 minutes.
3. Treasurers Report – Debbie Barton, OBVTA Treasurer, 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. Her treasurers report indicated that the cash on hand as of April 30, 2022 was 69,680 with the budget currently standing at \$62,209. The treasurers report was offered via motion to be accepted by Mike Wymbs and John Clarke seconded said motion. The Board of Directors unanimously agreed to accept the treasurers report.
4. Guests — Mayor Mo Hill and Councilman Justin Lamb each addressed the assembly in person at the general membership meeting. Both Mayor Hill and Councilman Lamb addressed the membership individually and then answered questions from the Board of Directors as well as from the membership. Items that were discussed included the following:

Reevaluation and Tax Appeals – The issues of the reval and ultimately the tax appeals were discussed. Mayor Hill indicated that Toms River only was really responsible for a certain percentage of the overall taxes and that the reval situation was controlled by the reval company, Professional Property Appraisers. Opportunities to discuss any issues were made available through meetings with the revaluation company and if residents were not satisfied they could always file their tax appeal. Tax appeals had to be filed by May 1, 2022 and were already being scheduled.

Ortley Beach beach damage – Mayor Hill and Councilman Lamb acknowledged that there was substantial damage to the beach as a result of recent storms. Mayor Hill indicated that the town had sent out for bid offer for contracts for repairs to the dunes, the walkovers to the beach, as well as some beach repairs itself. Mayor Hill indicated that these proposed repairs were only out for bid at the current time and while they were moving as quickly as possible on it, it was unlikely that these repairs would be done in time for the Memorial Day weekend. Mayor Hill indicated 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 edunes 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.

Boardwalk Repairs – Both Mayor Hill and Councilman Lamb did indicate that the boardwalk was undergoing repairs as much of the railings and fencing on the boardwalk had become in poor condition and had rusted out in spots. These repairs were moving forward and Mayor Hill felt that the repairs would be completed by the upcoming Memorial Day weekend.

Fire Hydrants – Questions were raised to Mayor Hill regarding the two recent fires that we had in Ortley Beach in which apparently water was not able to be accessed from the nearby fire hydrants causing a delay thereby potentially adding to the damage of the structures at the to recent fires. Mayor Hill deferred these issues to the fire department and/or the local water authority as these agencies would be the appropriate agencies to contact concerning fire hydrant issues.

EMS Response Time — A great deal of discussion was had with both Mayor Hill and Councilman Lamb regarding 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. Many from the OBVTA membership and the Board of Directors questioned why a rig is only placed on the island during the summer months when the population has grown substantially since Superstorm Sandy. Furthermore, issues as to whether it would be better if Tri Boro, situated in Seaside, was listed as a backup responder should Toms River be unavailable or if the bridge was up so that EMS was not able to leave the mainland onto the island. Mayor Hill discussed each of these issues but felt like the current system was performing in adequate job.

Guests Continued —Sergeant Ed Mooney of the Toms River Police Department stepped in for our usual guest Lieutenant Bachonski and he detailed the status of the issues involving police involvement in Ortley Beach. Sgt Mooney went through the statistics and did indicate that Ortley Beach is a very safe place although he did address of variety of issues including an uptick in car thefts, the legalization of marijuana, and issues involving fireworks. Sergeant Mooney expressed that while Toms River would be taking an active role in fireworks leading up to the Fourth of July, he stressed to residents to understand that due to the volume of fireworks that are anticipated to take place on the Fourth of July, that Ortley Beach residents should not expect responses to complaints in and around that time. Members and Board of Directors express their displeasure with that response and requested that the Toms River Police Department take a more active role including the time surrounding the Fourth of July.

5. **Membership committees** – The Board of Directors discussed with the membership the issue of adding member committees so that the membership may get more directly involved with the OBVTA. Three member committees were discussed and included the following: a Beach Front Committee that would handle the beach, the surf club and boardwalk issues; a Zoning/Planning and council committee they would handle issues directly involving the town including interaction with Toms River at the zoning meetings, planning board meetings, and general council meetings, and a third committee that would be a Recreation and Beautification

Committee that would handle the bayside recreation areas and town wide (OrtleyBeach) beautification issues. The Beach Front Committee would be headed by Tony Tomarazzo with John Clarke serving as her back up to the committee lead. The Zoning/Planning/Council Committee would be headed by Paul Jeffrey and would be backed up by Tony Tomazzaro and John Clarke. The Recreation and Beautification Committee would be headed by Joan Strathern and would be seconded by Cathy Crisafulli. It was discussed that all of these committees were important and would aid in the achievement of agenda and goals of the OBVTA. Any and all members are encouraged to join the committees and to become more involved with the Ortley Beach Voters and Taxpayers Association in general.

6. The Board of Directors advised the membership that they were three seats up for election come the June general membership meeting. Those vacancies on the Board of Directors were those currently being held by Paul Jeffrey, Mike Wymbbs, 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 will be running unopposed in the June meeting. As such, the three returning Board of Directors will be appointed by a single vote of the Secretary in accordance with a Bylaws of the OBVTA.
7. 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.