

ORTLEY BEACH VOTERS AND TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

General Membership Meeting

Saturday, October 15, 2022

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order – A call to Order was conducted by President, Anthony Colucci beginning the October OBVTA general membership meeting.
2. Moment of Reflection - A moment of reflection was conducted by the OBVTA Directors in support of Ukraine and was honored by the membership.
3. Roll Call – Roll call was conducted by the Secretary, John Clarke, and the following Board of Directors were present; Anthony Colucci, Debbie Barton, John Clarke, Joe Cantalupo, and Cathy Crisafulli.
4. Quorum Board of Directors – President, Anthony Colucci requested Secretary John Clarke to determine whether or not a quorum was present. Upon review of the members present for the General Membership Meeting, it was clearly established that a quorum had been reached as far in excess of 40 members of the membership were present at the meeting thereby establishing a quorum.
5. Minutes – The minutes from the September 17, 2022 General Membership Meeting were presented and accepted by a unanimous vote from the Board of Directors with the exception that the submission presented by Mel and Maureen Persi at the September General Membership meeting will be included in detail in the September meeting minutes and/or on the website.
6. Treasurer’s Report – Debbie Barton, OBVTA Treasurer, went over the Treasurer’s Report and explained in detail the Treasury Report for the OBVTA Membership. Ms. Barton went over the outstanding amounts owed, cash at hand, and the status of the current budget for the 2022 operating year. Currently, Ms. Barton pointed out that dues are our main source of income and year to date amounts to \$16,779.00. Fees associated with the dues payments amount to \$193.00. Year to date memberships are 589 and year to date members are 772 although this may become smaller number when some of the members are dropped due to non-payment for the 2022 calendar year. There

were 11 new members in September 2022 and an additional 2 in October. The money market fund that we invested some money in has currently yielded \$14.00 and other income includes a \$600.00 refund of a deposit that was returned to the OBVTA. Donations and gifts include a \$100.00 donation to the Moose Golf Outing along with prior gifts of \$250.00 to the American Club for the Ukraine fundraiser and donations to Barnegat Bay and Mary Ann each in the amount of \$100.00. Cash at hand at the current time amounts to \$44,858.00 in the money market account with \$30,531.00 in the checking account. A copy of the full and in-depth Treasurer's Report is posted on the OBVTA website. The Board of Directors unanimously agreed to accept the Treasurer's Report.

7. Guests – Originally, the agenda called for the OBVTA General Membership Meeting to include Mayor Mo Hill and Councilman, Justin Lamb. Neither Mayor Mo Hill nor Councilman Lamb were available for this General Membership Meeting.

Guests did include, however, the Toms River School Board candidates, Ms. Kathy Egan and Ms. Dayne Glover. Ms. Egan and Ms. Glover both gave presentations that were not to exceed ten minutes to the General Membership Committee. Ms. Egan explained that she is currently a member on the Board and that she is a retired teacher. She originally had issues with the Superintendent of schools for Toms River but a new Superintendent has taken over and is working greatly with the Toms River School Board at the present time. With regard to the financial situation, she did explain that the new Superintendent of schools is much more fiscally responsible which aligns with her positions as to the spending on the school board. She explained that she is studying the re-districting to take place in Toms River as well as attempting to repair the relationship with Toms River Township which has not been a very good relationship in the past. Ms. Glover also presented her position to the membership and explained that she is a Toms River resident and described Toms River Township as a special community. She feels that the Toms River School Board is in need of a new voice and one that will hold people accountable and have better community contact with Toms River. With regard to the financials, she indicated that the taxes and budgets often seem to be somewhat hidden from the community and that it is her position that much better communication with Toms River needs to be established so that people can understand where their tax dollars are being spent. A couple of issues that Ms. Glover did raise included her position on the enrollment and re-districting

and that is something that needs to be studied. A separate issue also has to do with the fact that Columbus Day was not recognized by the Toms River School District and that this needs to be resolved in the future.

Lieutenant Gene Bachonski – Lieutenant Bachonski also gave his usual thorough and entertaining report of police matters in Toms River but also more specifically in and around the Ortley Beach community. Over the summer of 2022, from Memorial Day to Labor Day, there were over 1,000 calls for service that were successfully responded to. However, since the summer season has ended there have only been 90 calls since “Bennies are gone”. Lieutenant Bachonski also warned the membership of thefts of cars that are being made as catalytic converters are being stolen and that there have been 6 or 7 similar thefts in Toms River in recent weeks. Lieutenant Bachonski also once again reminded the General Membership that various fraud schemes are on the rise and that basically if you don’t know who the person is who is calling you shouldn’t answer. There has also been a recent rise in what Lieutenant Bachonski characterized as “swatting”. Apparently, there are fake 911 calls that are being made claiming various emergencies that they are attempting to see a heavy police response thereto. Basically, these calls are attempting to get SWAT teams out to a specific area. The day before the General Membership meeting, there was a call for an active shooting in the Toms River Schools but that turned out to be a false call. Lieutenant Bachonski reminded the General Membership of the Community Outreach Program which meets the first Thursday of each month at the Toms River Police station and also reminded the membership of the program of Coffee with a Cop. These programs and others can be found on the Toms River website.

8. Committee Notes – Breakfast Committee – Cathy Crisafulli has announced to the General Membership that she is organizing a Breakfast Committee as she will no longer be undertaking the breakfast organization for the General Membership meetings. She is asking that members of the OBVTA join her committee to assist in this worthwhile and necessary endeavor.

Beach Committee – John Clarke gave the update on the beach committee. The primary focus of the information provided was the upcoming dune grass planting that was to take place on Saturday, November 5, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. Mr. Clarke had fliers available that were picked up the General Membership and also indicated that he had been in communication with the Toms River DPW

Department who was currently assisting in the delivery of the dune grass and the organization of the same.

The beautification committee also was presented by Cathy Crisafulli. Joan Strather met with Drew Markewitz, the landscape architect from NBV, to look at the final plans for streetscape on Tuesday, October 11, 2022. They discussed and decided on the final adjustments of the plan. Drew said the final plan should be ready to be sent to the New Jersey Department of Transportation in three weeks. NBV will be setting a time for a public information center meeting to make the public aware of the details and pictures of the plan, as soon as possible. Drew promised that NBV would expedite their part of the process but we all have no control over how quickly the New Jersey Department of Transportation will take part in this. This is a necessary part of the process. It is good, however, to report that at least things are progressing.

With regard to the beautification/recreation committee specifically, as reported last month, Ocean County is developing a plan to remove some of the plantings along Bay Blvd. to help with the site distance problem while maintaining as many of the indigenous plantings so that the environment and beauty of the median is maintained. The plan will also address parking and ditch problems on the median across from Mia's Pizza. John Ernst, the Ocean County Engineer, has promised to share the plan with our committee to get our input before implementation of the plan.

9. Members Comments – Maureen Persi then gave an update on her endeavors with regard to the secession of Ortley Beach from Toms River. Originally, the petitions that she submitted to the OBVTA to look into the secession amounted to 429. She has been out again and now has 551 people from Ortley Beach who have signed the petition. These additional petitions were submitted by Ms. Persi along with her full statement from the September General Membership meeting. The issue of secession was addressed by John Clarke who did indicate that the issue of secession is being examined by the OBVTA Board of Directors. This is a convoluted process that involves legal research as well as contacting experts in the field. Once the Board of Directors has more information on the feasibility of secession, it will be brought up to the General Membership at that time.

10. Close of Meeting - A motion was then brought to have the October 15, 2022 General Membership meeting brought to a close and that was unanimously approved.