

# Ship Bottom Taxpayers Association - Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

11/04/2024 – 4:30 pm

Location: AccuTitle Conference Room

**Present:** JoAnne Tallon, John Montone, Karen Drucker, Greg Fath, Kat Leifeste. Via Zoom: Blair Stiefbold, Karen Cygal

**Absent:** John Hiros, Dan Von Schaumburg

**Guest Attendees:** Councilmen Tom Tallon, Dave Hartman, Joe Valyo

**Agreement/modifications to agenda**

**Approval of minutes** – October Minutes - approved unanimously

**Presentation by Councilmen:**

**Tom Tallon** - reviewed our tax structure

Looking at the tax bill

- Upper left-hand corner is the assessed value of the property
- Upper right is the explanation of the taxes and the rate/100
- To calculate the number of 100s in your property's assessed value, move the decimal point to the left 2 places (eg. Home valued at 1 million the number per 100 is 10,000.)
- Multiply this number by the tax rate (45.8 in 2024) = \$4580.00
- Seven taxes on the SB tax bill:
  - County tax – 45.8 cents
  - County Library tax – 4.7 cents
  - County Open space tax – 2 cents
  - Regional school tax – 22.5 cents
  - Local school tax – 5 cents
  - Local municipal tax – 39.5
  - Municipal open space tax – 1 cent
- County lists county tax as 28 cents, Ship Bottom county rate is 45.8 due to the county equalization table which determines the real property ratio of assessed to true market value. (this is an attempt to ensure fairness across municipalities by adjusting assessed values to match market values.) All taxes except municipal tax and municipal open space tax are subject to the county equalization tax rate)
- Distribution of taxes:
  - County – 43.57%
  - Municipality – 33.61%
  - School (local and regional) 22.48%
- Overall, the island pays 15% of the county property taxes
- A couple of points related to school tax
  - Current school tax rate is low compared to other districts

- If the preK-6 students combine with Stafford students, the rate will be much higher
- Paying on a per pupil rate is only possible if Stafford Twp approved. Unlikely, since it would raise their regional school tax to 68%
- Representation on the regional school board is based on population
- NJ has 2 property tax relief programs for senior residents: Anchor and Senior Freeze, There is also another program. Stay NJ. All combined could save seniors up to \$6500/year

**Dave Hartman** – discussed bike safety in the area between 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> St

- Dismount zone was set this summer season on the oceanside
- Proposing a light on 31<sup>st</sup> St.
  - County Road Commissioner states a traffic study needs to be done
  - Need approval of both towns (Ship Bottom and LBT)
  - Would like SBTA to help in the effort
    - Letters to county engineers
    - Petitions
  - Brant Beach Taxpayers Association president hasn't committed
  - Mayor Mancini is against it
  - It was suggested that a light be moved from 26<sup>th</sup> St – Dave not sure that this would be possible since the corner of 26<sup>th</sup> is also a busy corner

**Joe Valyo** – spoke about the Living Shoreline by the boat ramp

- Phase 1 – grant available (Money available in December / January – application due in May)
  - Drawings of proposal needed
- Plan is to try several grants to fund the project
- Plan to repair existing bulkheading
- He has met with Re-claim the Bay for ideas
- Memorial benches needed – new company being sought as company used in the past no longer available
  - Need 2-3 weeks to move forward
  - Need 6 benches for the new gazebo
- Discussion about the new firetruck
  - Proposed truck could not be maneuvered on many SB streets
  - We do not require a truck that large as there are already 2 trucks like this on the island
  - Fire Dept and Town working closely together
  - A study is being completed which needs info on FD capabilities and inventory of the island as a whole
  - He commented on the seamless transition of the EMTs in July and hopes that this will be the case with the fire dept

**Treasurer's Report** – Blair said Balance = \$5700.18 There were 14 renewals

**Committee Reports:**

**Beautification** – Dan (Sunset Point) - no report John (Cutout) – Joe Valyo said things are moving forward, but the waterline in the area needs to be addressed first

**Membership** – Karen C

- GMASS is a tool on our Gmail account that would tell us activity by membership (opening up emails, etc.) cost is \$225/year. Board proposed signing up for 3 months to see if it is a worthwhile tool
- Plan to send out postcards to all residents in January (2025)
- Also, an email campaign
- Plans to send out a letter to businesses to recruit as sponsors

**Communications** – Greg & Karen D nothing to report

**JCTA** – Minutes from October sent via email – their next meeting is tonight

**Old Business**

Special thanks to all who participated in the Trunk of Treat. Another nice success.

Post Office Update – Greg

**New Business**

Bicycle Safety collaboration with Town Council – see above

Christmas Parade Donation - \$300 approved by board

Christmas Parade participation - no

Kickoff Breakfast in early 2025 to be discussed at next meeting

**Monthly Borough Meetings (calendar with rotating volunteers to attend)** – Whomever attends should send a “highlights” recap to our board which can also be sent to all active members via email.

**Land Use Board mtg:** Tuesday, November 19 @ 6:30 pm - Joanne

**School Board mtg:** Tuesday, November 19 @ 6:30 pm - Kat

**Town Council mtg:** Tuesday, November 26 @ 6:30 pm – Greg

**NEXT SBTA MEETING December 2, 2024 – Start Time 4:30 pm**

Meeting adjourned at 6:08 PM

Respectfully submitted, Kat Leifeste, Secretary