



SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE  
JOINT COUNCIL OF TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATIONS OF LBI  
MONDAY JULY 11, 2022

► **Reports from the priority committees**

☆ **Beach Erosion / Replenishment** There is \$32M in the budget of the Army Corps of Engineers (“ACOE”) for beach replenishment. Several people thought that this money had been allocated for the entire ACOE Philadelphia region, of which LBI is a part, not just for replenishment on LBI. This committee’s chair will make inquiries and confirm whether this is true or not.

An administrative aide in Representative Van Drew’s office confirmed that amount is there, however, one island mayor (Mayor Mancini of LBT) expressed his view that it was overly optimistic to think that approval to release the funds would happen effortlessly and opined that \$32M is not enough. It is unclear if the money will automatically roll into the next year’s ACOE budget for the same location if the funds are not used during this year. The committee chair will also seek an answer to this question.

The committee’s next steps, to some extent, depend on the answers to these queries.

☆ **Bicycle / Pedestrian Safety** Overall, this effort to raise awareness of bicycle and pedestrian safety and to see safety rules enforced is going well. Actual follow-through has been relegated to the respective communities and several people reported they had seen police engaged in promoting safe riding and walking by stopping and speaking with cyclists and pedestrians who were not conducting themselves in a safe manner.

☆ **First Responder Support** This committee is in the process of creating a full-page ad to be run in The Sandpaper soon. JCTA has money in the budget to pay for it. In addition, The Sandpaper has committed to creating and publishing a follow-up feature article about the challenges created by the lack of available housing on the island for volunteers in first responder units.

The purpose of the ad is to be a wake-up call, to make people on the island aware of what happens (or what could not happen) when they call 911. It is not just a solicitation for a donation to these first responder organizations, but rather it endeavors to set the tone and help people understand that the lack of volunteers in these organizations is a real problem on the whole island (as it is everywhere in the U.S.).

The ad is currently being drafted by the committee. In one full page, the ad identifies the problem, lists the eight first responder organizations who serve our island and their contact information and asks for help, suggesting ways in which readers might volunteer besides actually fighting a fire (a check is always welcome, too). JCTA member taxpayer associations would be listed at the very bottom of the ad.

Next, one or two follow-up feature articles would be researched and written by reporters from The Sandpaper. These articles would specifically focus on the lack of housing on the island for first responder volunteers. The Sandpaper has mentioned the housing problem in the past, but not in a feature story.

Solving this housing problem is a long-term project requiring the coordination and cooperation of all the island's mayors. Someone has to bring attention to it, however, in order for the problem to start being addressed. That is what JCTA hopes to accomplish.

Committee members and representatives of individual taxpayer associations in towns with a fire company and EMT squad will meet together with representatives to these organizations to preview the ad. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an FYI and get input, not to get bogged down with color or style details.

We discussed next steps after the ad is initially run and a first feature article is published. We will keep you informed as we solidify our plans. The sky is not falling (yet), but JCTA has committed to making people aware that there is a problem and something has to change. Ultimately, going forward, it is up to the board of each taxpayer association's to decide how to present this information to their members.

Also, this committee is looking into the possibility of setting up a program similar to a LIT (Lifeguard In Training) program, but for fire company volunteers. The committee's chair has been in touch with Southern Regional High School, who has shown an interest in meeting and learning more about such a program. Barnegat Light and Surf City already have this type of training program; please note that the young people involved are not allowed to go to fires.

★ **Flooding** The committee did not meet in June, but the next meeting is scheduled for July 20.

★ **Offshore Wind Farms** Issue #3 of The Offshore Wind Farm Round-Up has been sent to all taxpayers associations' representatives. Topics covered in this issue are studies tourism, a comparison of the image of the turbines published in a recent Sandpaper and the simulation published in Atlantic Shore's Construction and Operations Plan, navigation lights and the virtual public meetings regarding the Draft Environment Impact Study for Ocean Wind 1.

An email address for this committee has been established so people can write directly to the committee with questions and comments: [RoundUpLBI@gmail.com](mailto:RoundUpLBI@gmail.com).

- ▶ **Gift to honor Barbara Truncellito** We continue to work with Father Francis as St. Francis Parish about our desire to do something lasting for the church in honor of our president and friend, who passed away suddenly in March. We are working on creating a gift that recognizes her passion for and commitment to all activities related to the Food Bank at St. Francis.

- ▶ **Speaking of Island Volunteer Fire Companies**

The Surf City Volunteer Fire Department & EMS Pancake Breakfast is Saturday July 16 from 8 am – 12 pm at the Surf City fire house.

The Ship Bottom Volunteer Fire Company's 100-Year Anniversary celebrations go through October and include, but are not limited to, a mini golf tournament, corn hole tournament and a parade of fire trucks ("a muster") on Saturday October 3.

There are many opportunities to sponsor activities connected with the anniversary. Donations are always welcome.

**Another worthy cause to note:** In honor of its 100-year anniversary, the Spray Beach Yacht Club is planning on producing and distributing 10,000 packaged meals. They are looking for volunteers. Contact them directly or through the website if you are interested.

- ▶ **Tax status change?** Our JCTA president announced that he would like to take a look at getting 501(c)(3) status for JCTA in case, in the future, we would like to raise funds as we did

during covid for the St. Francis Food Bank and local hospital workers. If JCTA had that status, individual tax associations could collect money, write a check to JCTA and then claim the tax deduction.