

Beach Haven Taxpayers' Association

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February 2026

Greetings from the Beach Haven Taxpayers' Association (BHTA).

We would like to present an overview of the Beach Haven Taxpayers' Association: who we are; what we do; and what are our priorities for 2026.

Most of the homeowners of Beach Haven are seasonal and not eligible to vote in local elections. BHTA provides a community resource whereby their opinions, input and concerns can be addressed. Established in 1962, BHTA is a non-profit "watchdog" to identify issues and to monitor and advocate to the local governing bodies on all taxpayers' behalf. Our mission is to build a network of engaged taxpayers who care about the Borough's vitality and affordability. Our vision is a Beach Haven where current and future residents can enjoy the lifestyle that makes our borough special while addressing the needs of future generations. This includes all issues affecting our taxpayers including cultural, environmental and economic. To accomplish this, we solicit community members to provide input and new ideas related to the Borough government operations.

BHTA 2026 priorities continue to be, but are not limited, to the following:

- **Monitor the efforts of the governing body and concerned residents to remove the Atlantic City Electric lithium-ion battery energy storage system (BESS) facility located in the center of Beach Haven.** Public safety has and will always be a top priority of BHTA. Said facility represents a public safety and health risk to residents, seasonal visitors and first responders. Once activated, if it catches on fire, thermal runaway has the potential to release poisonous, toxic, and explosive gases along with heavy metal particles which can be detrimental to the surrounding environment, impacting property values, businesses and the quality of life. BHTA will continue to support the efforts to remove this facility. Its current location is in close proximity to residences and businesses as well as the single evacuation route for egress and for incoming emergency response vehicles. We will advocate for alternative systems that are safe for everyone. In large part due to the efforts of BHTA, the Ocean County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution supporting delay of commissioning the facility. We will provide additional information via links in the BESS tab on our website.
- **Develop a long-range strategy for the Emergency Operations Center, and increase its effective utilization.** BHTA will work with the Government Services Administration (GSA) to accomplish our strategy. We need to provide low-cost dormitory housing for qualified first responders, lifeguards and other seasonal employees as well as a training and meeting space for our Volunteer Fire Department and Beach Haven First Aid Squad.
- **Revamp our website to improve communications with all taxpayers on a timelier basis.** We will also enhance transparency and communication for all taxpayers by having a member of Borough Council as an adjunct member of our Board (without voting rights).
- **Encourage timely reporting and grass roots interaction.** BHTA will encourage Council to provide us their mission, goals and objectives for the coming year. Council should consistently disclose the "why we recommend this" as part of their presentations of introduction of ordinances and resolutions at public meetings.
- **Learn from other Taxpayers and Property Owner Associations for the betterment of Beach Haven.** We hold a leadership position with the Joint Council Taxpayers Associations of LBI.

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To accomplish these priorities, we need your help. We ask you to become a member of BHTA by completing the attached membership form and returning it with a check of \$25.00 (renewable annually). You can also join online at www.bhtaxpayers.org and pay by credit card. If you chose not to join at this time, we ask you complete the form with your e-mail address so we may contact you in a cost-effective manner in the future.

Help us improve the quality of life of the residents and taxpayers of Beach Haven; promote efficiency and economy within our government; and study and make recommendations of common concern affecting our community. We appreciate your financial support and encourage your active participation in BHTA. Your ideas and input are important to us. Your involvement is critical to our quest to best represent the concerns of all Beach Haven taxpayers.

Thank you.

Beach Haven Taxpayers' Association Board of Directors

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