



GREATER SEVERNA PARK COUNCIL  
**Meeting**  
**Severna Park Library**  
**January 10, 2012**  
**Minutes**



Go to: [www.GSPCouncil.Org](http://www.GSPCouncil.Org)

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Jerry Pesterfield. Mr. Pesterfield welcomed new attendees Debbie Haavik, Shipley’s Choice, and two boy scout’s from Troop 339, Shipley’s Choice, attended to earn credit for Community Service merit badges.

**Secretary’s Report:** Mr. Pesterfield motioned for approval of the December 13, 2011 Minutes he distributed by email to the full membership. Motion to approve the Secretary’s Report was unanimously approved as submitted and filed for the record.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Steve Poland provided the following Treasurer’s Report as of January 10, 2012.

**Account balances** (as of 12/30/2011)

BB&T checking	= \$ 5,585.78
SmithBarney money market	= \$ 794.10
SmithBarney CDs (4)	= \$25,000.00

Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report was unanimously approved as submitted and filed for the record for audit purposes.

**Speaker County Council Chairman Dick Ladd – The year in Review:** Mr. Pesterfield welcomed and thanked Council Chairman Dick Ladd for attending the meeting. Mr. Ladd acknowledged his Legislative Assistant Diane Jennings for her outstanding assistance, and acknowledged Mr. Carroll Hicks, appointed to be the representative for the District on the Board of Appeals. He also noted how important the Board of Appeals is because it is the independent look at the administrative matters and Mr. Hicks has done a remarkable job particularly with his technical background in engineering.

Mr. Ladd also noted that Delegate Ron George, R-Arnold, is replacing Delegate Bob Costa, R-Deale, as chairman of the Anne Arundel County delegation in the House of Delegates, and the County delegation caucus elected Ron George as the Chairman of the delegation who will be the Councilman for a large portion of this district and will be the head of the delegation for this year.

**Recap of Last Year and Ongoing Items:**

- Binding Arbitration was passed. The Council has final fiscal authority and it’s a way of controlling costs and spending
- Budget spending - No major increases in budget spending
- Rainy Day Fund - Did have a little more revenue coming in, and put money into the Rainy Day Fund which is the place they go to if they have a shortfall in revenue with \$5 million in funds and \$3 million in the contingency account.
- Comprehensive Zoning - Finished with zoning and accomplished most of what was requested. Maureen Carr-York helped with some of the issues related to the Cattail Creek and got most of the things accomplished. Mr. Ladd acknowledged the work Jerry Pesterfield did in working with Al Johnston to get covenants negotiated on many pieces of property, which requires detailed knowledge and expertise to get these things accomplished. Mr. Ladd noted that as an elected official he is not able to negotiate these issues and the Severna Park Area is very fortunate to have both Jerry and Mr. Johnston working these issues.
- 55+ Older Housing on Jumper’s Hole Rd. (5 to 7 acre lot) - They went through and looked at a lot of different places where they have done 55+ housing and acknowledged that there is a need for this housing which will grow. When they have gone and looked at 55+ housing it typically shows up in larger developments and you see some of these developments down in South River Colony that are stand alone, one family homes, all on one floor, and duplexes that are various kinds of structures done on fairly large structures.

We have a very unique situation in a county that is largely built up, and we need to work on how to go about finding the space to do that. There are places where we can go and there are only two places in the County where we currently have R-5 zoning: Sunrise and McKinsey Park.

- Charter Review Commission is underway and they are coming along and doing a good scrub on things including how do we do the comprehensive rezoning process better. How do we get it set up for more open, frequent and easy access by citizens. Frequently residents will find that suddenly the area around them is being rezoned and there was not a good way to get the information to them. The Planning Advisory Board looks at a lot of these issues and they received testimony recently on having a permanent planning committee outside to have advisory authority.

- Councilmanic Districts - They have already come forward to outline what the changes in the councilmanic district boundaries will be. The way it looks for District 5 is there will probably be some minor changes along Rt. 2 where the district interfaces with Pasadena because the population has grown and there will be some realignment. The principal issue will be what will be done over in West County, and whether or not they will try to make South County an all rural county. The important things to recognize are what have been brought to them for a vote so they can get the Council to decide which of their recommendations in a specific order will be put on the ballot for November 2012 which has to be done by May or June.

- Health Care and Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) - All governments have promises to their employees that they will be given health care in their retirement. The bill for our county, not including public schools, is about \$1.2 billion. They have been looking at this for about 3 to 4 months and are about finished. They have very good results so far, but are not quite ready to release the report. There are ways to make some adjustments at how they look at retirement benefits to bring them in line with what is going on in the public world and other governmental entities to take advantage of changes in how health care insurance is being delivered particularly with people who are retiring and on Medicare. There are a lot of changes coming out in the insurance packages, and what they are finding is if they go out and get into some fairly large pools where they can spread the risks that they have there are substantial savings they can come up with. There is some good news coming and the question right now is whether they can solve the problem, but it will be a process of probably 5 to 6 years before it will be largely funded in the budget. What is driving this is a requirement that all health care costs have got to be either funded in a trust fund or paid for as incurred or liability is carried on the books. It is the same situation that pensions were in a couple of decades ago and that is what leads to the establishment of trust funds to pay County or government employees pensions.

- Storm Water Run-off - Severna Park is a built out County. There is a lot of property and residents under roof, under driveway, and under streets, and a lot of run-off. Cattail Creek is an example of where it was set up and designed, and there is more volume in there because it is more and more built up. There are lots of coverage that makes storm water run-off a critical area, and a lot of problems with so many water front exposures on the rivers which created a lot of run-off. They sponsored, along with Chris Trumbauer, a Bill to try to get some funding to deal with storm water run-off, and is something that has to continue to be brought up.

We have stood up and said we don't want to raise taxes, but the problem is how to get the priority shifted inside the budget to start putting more funding into the storm water run-off area. There is absolutely nothing in the storm water run-off area that gets cheaper by doing nothing. One thing he gets calls on most frequently is storm water run-off issues. When the Bill was put out the response from all communities was overwhelmingly positive. The Challenge is to get more votes to deal with this. The one thing he is comfortable with is to put money out there in a lock-box that can be used only for one thing - moving dirt or asphalt that helps to take care of storm water run-off. The money would be spread around the County in proportion to the piece of the river water shed that is in our district.

- Flush Fee Increase - One other thing that will come up is the flush fee going up this year. The Governor is saying that he wants the flush fee to go up from \$30 to \$60 and they have been told that they have proposed to allow us 15% of that which would amount to \$9 to 10 million, but it doesn't get the movement that is needed. This is something that has to be worked on.

- Severna Park High School - Is coming along and is currently doing the 2-year planning cycle. The one thing that he hears when talking to people is that we have got to get Severna Park High School started. The earliest we can get it started is in budget year 2014 which would be starting next year at the end of the school year. Whether the plans will be that far along he can't tell, but the people that should be motivated to get in line with us and get us put ahead of some of the elementary schools is Old Mill High School. Old Mill needs to be worked on as well and they don't get their money until Severna Park High School is built and there may be some votes that we can get to keep Severna Park High on schedule.

The problem that we face in the budget right now is that they want to build six elementary schools before they start Severna Park High. A major problem is that the Board of Education has asked for \$150 million for building and \$100 million has been put into the budget, but it isn't sufficient. The issue, from his point of view, is that he will have to stand up publicly and say we can't do Benfield Elementary and Rolling Knolls next year, because it is the piece that comes the year after that in 2014 which is the money that we need for Severna Park High, and we have got to get started since we need two years worth of funding if it is going to be built in two school years.

Trash Collection – To save money the County will be going to one day a week trash collection scheduled to start in June 2012. However, the unfortunate thing is knowing where the money is that will be saved. Because of the way solid waste management works you won't see the increase in fees that would normally be there because of the increased cost that would be expected. It will delay any increase in fees and that's a savings technically.

Go to <http://www.aacounty.org/DPW/index.cfm> for full information on once a week trash collection effective June 1, 2012.

**Legislation being Worked On:** Work session began today and, as previously discussed, the legislation being worked on including the Charter Review Commission is moving along and public hearings will be held on January 23 and February 27 in the Councilmanic office. It's important to attend these hearings especially if anyone wants to give testimony about items in the Charter that need to be changed. For example, comprehensive rezoning process, binding arbitration, councilmanic disqualification, and district boundaries. It's important to attend and voice your opinions on issues of importance.

The Council has picked up some legislation that is being worked on including:

- New Water Master Plan: Will go through and look at where to extend sewers and water. There was only one place in the district where there was any action on it, and that was to extend water to a place in back of a mall on Route 50.

- Updated Code for Building Permits: The Council went through and administratively updated the code for all building permits. There was no real impact for Severna Park in terms of the code for substance. One of the things that was made clear is that sometimes getting building permits is a time consuming, frustrating and circular type of exercise. They are going to look at the process and find ways to make it easier. In particular for people who live on the water since when you try to get building and grading permits to work on the water it can be a very frustrating process.

- Adequate Public Facilities, Traffic Studies, Rules and Regulations: Have started proposed changes on how to do traffic studies. In particular, because of what happened in Pasadena, now when construction is done in Pasadena they can look at all intersections coming west from Pasadena onto Mountain Road to see how it is going to get into Route 2, and start looking for bottle necks. There is a different set of rules for doing traffic studies east of Route 2 basically in the Severna Park area up to Glen Burnie and back over to Pasadena. This is a major change since they have lots of different housing developments going in and it's the first chance to try and see how to work on resolving the bottle necks.

- Smart Meters: BG&E is embarking on a process in the entire Anne Arundel County to go through and install new smart electric meters on homes which will be read by an RF signal - the same signal you have on your cell phone. BG&E will install transmitters and receivers selectively on light poles throughout communities and will be able to read the power that is being consumed. Initially, BGE will only be able to tell the aggregate consumption, but they can collect it on an hourly basis. What they will do with that information over time is not specifically known, but has to do with low management and how far back they will share your consumption by hour with the power producers. Some of the producers will start selling the power at different rates during low demand and other amounts during peak hours, and will be monitored via the smart meters. The dates for implementation will be: (1) Severna Park from April through December 2012; (2) Arnold and the Broadneck Peninsula from June through December 2012. Notices will be mailed and distributed to each community when work begins.

If meters are on the outside of your home you don't need to be home, but if meters are in the house you will have to coordinate with BG&E. The entire County process will be completed by 2013. It will be about a year before BG&E will have enough aggregate data to make adjustments to rates charged, and they expect that by having this data they will be able to better manage their power generation, how they acquire their power, and putting incentives out to get people to drop the peak demand down. They expect that they will be able to show savings over projected rate increases of 20% when they have the data up and running and start collecting the data. These are BG&E estimates, the savings will be visible by lower rates of interest. All of this data has to be provided to the State Rate Commission when they justify further increases in their rates.

- Charter Review: As mentioned previously, the issues associated with improving the comprehensive rezoning process will go on the ballot. The Council will take the report submitted to them, and will wordsmith the recommendations and vote on them. Any proposed recommendations will require five affirmative Council members' votes to be put on the ballot in November.

- Berrywood Community Storm water: Berrywood Community has had some issues with the storm water run-off, and the Department of Public Works has scheduled for February or early March to determine where the problems are and how to fix them.

- Shipley's Choice Dam Restoration Project: Will start this year and the most important part of this project is that West Benfield will be closed for four months starting in late August or early September. Mr. Pesterfield noted that the GSPC is arranging meetings with the affected communities along Bear Creek including Pointfield Landing, Ben Oaks, Crain West and Shipley's Choice with the goal of educating the communities on the impact and working with the County.

### O&As:

Water and Sewer Master Plan Bill 2-12: John Norville, Director, noted that there will be a public hearing on February 6<sup>th</sup>, and the Bill is being reviewed by the Planning Advisory Board and will go to the Council. It's almost a dozen assorted and distributed additions to various areas mostly caused by the comprehensive rezoning where residential, for example, may have gone by that zoning plan from one to twenty-two and a high density will go in that will require impact obviously on additional sewer and/or additional water, and most are a result of that. There will be hearings and the plan looks rather straight forward. As you expand the growth you have to expand the sewer and expand the water, and many times the front footage fee will be paid by those benefitting. That's the issue - will the owner's who are partitioning-requesting then be able to afford to do that.

Chartwell Community - Water Table Levels and Running Washers Out to the Street: A member of the Chartwell community asked about what can be done about washers running out to the street? Chartwell has many houses that when there is a storm the water table goes very high, and many people have taken their washers and run them out to the street. They are on septic and it is not a critical area. Mr. Ladd noted that they have a septic tank that is draining and perking, and most houses today are required to have a backup perk site. The community will probably have to get to the point where they want to get connected to the public sewer. Mr. Pesterfield noted that there is a permitting process and you need over 50% of the community to agree. You need to have a lion share of the community engaged and if you are not getting up to 55% -70% then all you will have is polarization. There is a process to go through and most of the time the issue is the cost. How to reduce the cost is the major issue to be resolved.

Real Estate Assessments Declining and Balancing the Budget: Mr. Ladd also noted that the assessments for real estate are declining throughout the County. Assessments went down 15% to 20%, and the accessible tax base for the County provides 43 to 44% of the County's annual revenue. He doesn't think at this time they can get 4 votes to cut expenditures. So they have a choice to work very hard to hold spending even, not including inflation, just to continue to provide the current services provided. Mr. Ladd also noted that they are balancing the budget on the back of employees and are still taking \$12 to \$14 million a year out of the pay checks of people that work for the County. He personally believes it is unconscionable and has to be addressed. But it is one of the things they need to go back and start addressing and that's without a pay raise. One of the things that has been talked about is the President proposing a half of one percent pay increase for the Federal Government.

This is going to cause the Maryland Congress, when they get into the budget, to say we have got to fix that to give employees more money since the cost of everything is going up by 10 to 15%. The Board of Education has asked to have an additional \$50 million and we simply do not have the money. The revenue income for 2012 is running behind our projections on real estate and sales taxes which is monitored on a quarterly basis.

Understanding Collectively what Communities Want Over the Next 4-6 Year and Stewardship: Mr. Ladd noted that he wants to be sure he understands what communities want to have 4 to 6 years out that may have a gestation period of 7 to 8 years. What he hears from constituents that they want fixed are roads and storm water run-off. There isn't a councilmanic district here that doesn't have storm water run-off problems, save maybe district 1 and 4. You think about South County that was part of the county that had road sections washed out because of the Patuxent River washing out some of those places. This is something that needs to be done whether you clean up the Bay today. If you start the process and do it right it does clean up the Bay.

- Stewardship: Mr. Ladd noted that there is a lot to be talked about in each community, and the one thing he believes in is stewardship. He wants to leave the community better than when he started. The problem with the highways is huge and the added public facility provision that was put in today to start looking at how you get in and out of communities, e.g., Pasadena, is important. More needs to be done on how to address the capacity on Rt. 2 and we need to get the State delegation to the point of starting to fund the highway projects.

**Road Committee Update:** Maureen Carr-York, appointed member of the Citizens Advisory Committee, provided the following update:

- Arnold Preservation Council (APC): She is the leading committee contact with this group and APC. They work in concert with other groups such as the Broadneck Council Community and the Broadneck Federation on issues of concern to everyone. Most recently members of their group worked very closely with her, Jerry Pesterfield and Al Johnston on all of the rezoning issues especially up and down Ritchie Highway. They have a new board and the new President is Elizabeth Rosborg who grew up in Arnold and is now living in the same home that her grandparents and parents lived in. She is a long term Arnold resident and very interested in the GSPC. She plans to invite Ms. Rosborg to attend one of the GSPC meetings to meet everyone and update them on the APC. If anyone wants to bring something up to involve them in, especially residents who live along B&A Blvd., please let her know and she will bring it to Ms. Rosborg's and the APC's attention.

- Transportation Functional Master Plan Study Meetings: Last met in November and is scheduled to have another meeting end of the month or in February. Ms. Carr-York noted that she has a whole lot of materials, and if you have any questions contact her. Basically they are looking at the main arterial roads that will be failing in the next 15-20 years. Includes Ritchie Highway, Benfield Blvd., Rt. 3 in Crofton, and especially the roads around Ft. Meade. The good news is that it's being addressed. The bad news is that she has not heard any good answers yet. Basically, most of the things that could be done as far as adding additional lanes, will be unpalatable to most residents of the communities adjoining the roadways. She noted that she doesn't think anyone wants another lane on Benfield Blvd. and that was proposed many years ago. She also noted that she thinks she knows how everyone feels about these issues, but would appreciate any comments so she can properly address the issues. One of the big proposals regarding Ritchie Highway is installing light rail down the middle of Ritchie Highway to alleviate some of the traffic from Baltimore to Annapolis. It has lots of pros and cons and she is very interested in hearing from residents.

**2012 GSPC Board Elections:** President Pesterfield noted that the electronic voting was audited and confirmed. Community representatives present who did not submit an email vote were asked for their up or down vote on the slate of candidates. There were four additional yes votes totaling 52 affirmative votes approving the following slate of candidates for 2012:

President	*Jerry Pesterfield
Vice President:	Brad Myers (Director)
Vice President Public Affairs	*Albert Johnston
Secretary	*Kathleen J. Michels
Treasurer	*Steve Poland
Director	*Dan Nataf, Director Emeritus
Director	Roy Higgs (former director)
Director	*Ann Jackson
Director	*John Norville (Nominated by Board of Directors)

\* *Incumbents*

Mr. Norville declared the election completed and the officers officially inducted. The official tally of electronic votes was provided and filed for the record.

He thanked the incumbents and officers for their service, the communities who voted, and the nominating committee. Mr. Norville also thanked Michele Rose for her outstanding past service as secretary and vice president.

**Public Works:** Dan Nataf, Director Emeritus, noted that he did have a discussion with the traffic engineer who represents the area. Their focus was on Evergreen Road and a new crosswalk being installed to increase access to the walkway. There is also a discussion regarding Olde Severna Park regarding the intersection at Evergreen to reduce speed and volume to slow people down and avoid rear-end accidents Monday through Friday, not Saturday and Sunday.

**Board of Education:** No report.

**Environmental Committee Report:** Submitted by Ann Jackson & Ed Krause, Watershed Stewards. The report was distributed to the full membership by Mr. Pesterfield via email and is filed for the official record. Director Ann Jackson noted that the projects along Cypress Creek are moving along, and advised delegates that she left flyers at the entrance regarding the upcoming Watershed Steward Academy Conference.

**Police-Community Relations Report:** Buck Brown/Julie Krause – Co-Chairs. Mr. Pesterfield noted there wasn't anything new other than the Police Districts have done a redistricting and have changed a bit up north, but the changes do not affect the Severna Park Area.

**Chamber of Commerce:** No report.

**February GSPC General Meeting:** President Pesterfield advised delegates that February's general meeting in falls on Valentine's Day. He asked the delegates to decide whether they want to hold the next meeting on Valentine's Day or cancel February. He also mentioned that Speaker's for the County are not yet confirmed, but we can establish a topic if the delegates want to have the February meeting. He asked for a show of hands for those in favor of canceling the meeting and those who want to continue the meeting. Based on the show of hands, the February meeting will not be held and the minutes will reflect that the delegates present elected and voted to not hold a February GSPC general meeting, and thanked the delegates.

**Planning and Comprehensive Zoning Actions - Al Johnston, Vice President for Public Affairs:** Mr. Johnston advised that the GSPC Zoning/Legislation Agenda for 1-10-12 was distributed to the full membership by Mr. Pesterfield via email and copies are on the table at the entrance. He has one correction and it is the only thing he wants to add tonight. The Shelter Development Assisted Living Facility on Jumpers Hold Road will not start in early 2012 but in June 2012. Other than that, the agenda was very well taken care of by the speaker tonight.

**Old/Unfinished/New Business:** No report.

**Acknowledgement and Special Thanks to Charlie Miller, Council Sergeant at Arms:** In closing, President Pesterfield acknowledged Mr. Charlie Miller, the Council's sergeant at arms, who quietly leaves the meetings about twenty minutes to nine every meeting to guard the door so we can stay past the library closing hour. He volunteers for this. The delegates gave a round of applause and President Pesterfield thanked him for his service.

**Next GSPC Meeting Dates:**

- **Board of Directors Meetings: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 – 7:30 pm – Severna Park Library**

**Wednesday, February 22, 2012 – 7:30 pm – Severna Park Library**

- **General Meeting: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 – 7:30 pm – Severna Park**

**Speaker:** County Department of Public Works update by Ron Bowen, Director, Anne Arundel County  
Department of Public Works

**(Note: The February general meeting is canceled since it falls on Valentine's Day)**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Very respectfully submitted:



Kathleen J. Michels, GSPC Secretary - January 21, 2012