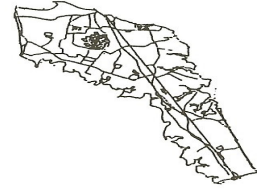




P.O. Box 786
Severna Park, MD 21146

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



Go to: www.GSPCouncil.Org

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Steve Poland. Mr. Poland advised delegates that he has been approved as President and will serve as interim President for the remainder of 2012 replacing former President Jerry Pesterfield who has moved to Annapolis. Mr. Poland will also continue to serve as Treasurer. He welcomed new attendee Henry Kochanski, Carrollton Manor.

Adoption of Secretary's Report: Mr. Poland motioned for approval of the June 12, 2012 Minutes distributed to the full membership by email. No comments or corrections were received. Motion to approve the Secretary's Report was unanimously approved as submitted and filed for the record.

Adoption of Treasurer's Report: President Poland submitted the following Treasurer's Report dated July 10, 2012. Mr. Poland noted that the post office box check amount increased from \$70.00 to \$86.00.

Account balances (as of June 30, 2012)

BB&T checking	= \$ 7,152.93
SmithBarney money market	= \$ 5,841.76
SmithBarney CDs (4)	= \$20,000.00

Beautification Trust Fund

(closed 10/20/11)

Account activity in June 2012

BB&T

Dues deposited	= \$ 210.00
Checks cleared--2192	= \$ (86.00)
Service Charge	= \$ (2.00)

SmithBarney

Money Market	= \$ 0.00
Interest	= \$ 12.53
CDs	
--matured	= \$ (5,000.00)
--purchased	= \$ 0.00

BankAnnapolis (Beautification Trust Fund)

(closed 10/20/11)

Member Update (as of July 10, 2012)

- 52 Communities are in "Good Standing" – paid 2012 dues
- 6 Communities are no longer eligible to vote in 2012 since dues are unpaid to date: Chartwood, Evergreen, Fair Oaks, Jennings Road, Sheffield Park, and Williams Woods
- Former member Communities: Arundel Plaza, Berrywood Ridge, East Earleigh Heights, Jones CA, McKinsey Park, McKinsey Woods, Severn Heights

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

GUEST SPEAKERS: President Poland introduced Councilman Dick Ladd, the main speaker, and noted that Mr. Ladd graciously agreed to give his Budget Review and Charter History and Review presentations after the presentations by the Assistance League and Growth Action Network of Ann Arundel County.

(1) **Assistance League of the Chesapeake – Past Presidents Pam Meyers and Rose Houghton:** Ms. Meyers introduced current President Bonnie Sysko and Public Relations Chair Terry Conway. Ms. Meyers and Ms. Houghton provided the following overview and information:

- **Purpose:** Assistance League of the Chesapeake, Inc., is a 501^C (3) nonprofit, volunteer organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and adults through community-based philanthropic programs. Assistance League members are all action when it comes to helping Anne Arundel children and senior citizens. Assistance League of the Chesapeake was established as a guild in July 2001, chartered in March 2006 as the 114th chapter of the National organization. National Assistance League was founded in 1935 in Southern California, and empowers volunteers through a strong network of more than 122 local chapters and guilds across the United States, to each meeting changing needs in their own communities. Last year, the National Assistance League volunteers invested more than 2.6 million hours and returned \$35 million to communities across the nation.

- **Funding:** Funding for Assistance League's philanthropic programs in our community comes from two annual fundraising events, individual donations, corporate sponsors, grants, foundations. All gifts are fully tax-deductible.

- **Programs Provided and Supported in Anne Arundel County:** Last year members of Assistance League of the Chesapeake provided over 7,800 hours of volunteer service in the local Anne Arundel County community touching the lives of more than 11,000 children and senior citizens. Funds raised are returned to the community through five philanthropic programs:

- **Operation School Bell**[®] – KIN (Kids In Need) and Project Literacy provides new uniforms, clothing, books, enrichment opportunities, guest readers and tutors for students in designated Title 1 schools. Designated children in low income schools are outfitted with new uniforms for the school year. Each year all students in several schools receive a new book of their own to take home, a big treat for all. Uniforms are provided to children in need in hopes of enhancing their self-esteem, promote learning, and encourage regular school attendance. Last year 23,039 children lived in poverty conditions in AACounty. Currently, the number of homeless children is close to 1,000. Help in providing the basic school clothing for these kids is always appreciated. A \$30 donation provides a shirt, pants, sweatshirt, and socks for a child in need.

Donations may be made by going online to: www.ALChesapeake.org. or mailing donations to:

Assistance League P.O. Box 1774, Millersville, MD 21108 – Making checks payable to AL Chesapeake.

- **Kids On the Block**[™] – **A Troupe of Educational Puppeteers** – This program explores issues of disability, cultural differences, bullying, and other social problems through puppetry. The life-size puppets and targeted scripts help children accept individual differences and learn valuable personal skills.

- **Emergency Kits** – Emergency supply kits are distributed to homebound senior citizens and disabled individuals. The kits include flashlights, battery operated radios and 3 days of non-perishable food and drinks, and are packed and delivered by members. The homebound people we serve appreciate our visits as much as the emergency supplies we deliver.

- **S.M.I.L.E. (Senior Multi-Interest Lifetime Enrichment)** – An interactive Sing-A-long program takes familiar music to seniors in nursing homes and assisted living facilities in Anne Arundel County.

- **Community Outreach** – Provides a range of community needs on a one time basis. We partner with other local agencies with some of our programs.

- **Wish List for 2012-2013** – Assistance is needed for printing/copy services, donation of office/meeting and storage space, support for fund raising events, A.V. equipment, and volunteers for guest reader weeks and sing a-longs for seniors.

- **Membership:** Membership in Assistance League is fun and rewarding. Our chapter offers a variety of philanthropic programs, and members are free to participate in any or all of these according to their availability and interest. In addition, social activities held during the year promote strong friendships. Voting members are asked to participate in at least one program of their choice and serve on a committee. They attend monthly chapter meetings the second Thursday of each month, excluding July and August, and support our fundraising projects. Dues are \$60 per year.

Membership is open to those who wish to provide service to the community and who want to experience the inner reward that comes from helping others. New members are welcomed at all times. Assistance League of the Chesapeake offers a variety of opportunities for members to make a difference in Anne Arundel County.

Join the puppet troupe, read to a child, distribute school uniforms, pack and deliver emergency kits, or participate in a sing-a-long at a senior center or nursing home. The time spent in these volunteer activities is guaranteed to promote positive change.

For full information about Assistance League of the Chesapeake Chapter go to:

Info@ALChesapeake.org

www.ALChesapeake.org

www.facebook.com/ALChesapeake

(2) **Ann Fligsten, Coordinator, Growth Action Network (GAN):** Al Johnston, Vice President for Public Affairs, introduced Ms. Fligsten and noted that the GSPC has been trying to get the Growth Action Network (GAN) on the agenda for some time and thanked her for attending. Ann Fligsten, a noted land-use attorney in Anne Arundel County, has long voiced her opinion on planning and zoning issues, testifying before the County Council and meeting with county officials. She is a graduate of Goucher College and received her law degree from the University of Maryland. She became an attorney in 1975 and is the immediate past president of the Arnold Preservation Counsel which is a member of the GSPC. She was president of the Historical Annapolis Foundation from 1991-1999, sits on the Board of Ginger Cove-Annapolis, is President of the Annapolis Regional Transportation Administration, and is the current Coordinator of GAN.

- **GAN Background and Purpose:** Ms. Fligsten noted that when she started five-years ago she did not realize GAN was trying to emulate the GSPC, but what they are is a network of communities, individuals, and organizations. Basically what GAN is trying to do is to make sure that any growth that happens in the County does positive things and is good for the community, good for quality of life and doesn't do damage to the environment. The GSPC has been watching these issues for over 50 years, and when she talks to some of the GAN member organizations that are much newer she tells them about the GSPC. She realized today when she was informing someone from Piney Orchard about the GSPC, and noted that the GSPC has been networking for all this time, that the individual she was telling was not aware of the GSPC involvement when he said: "Gee it doesn't seem that Severna Park has that many problems." Ms. Fligsten then advised the individual from Piney Orchard that Severna Park has an organization that has been networking together for a long time. The GSPC knows what they are doing and they also have a legal defense fund which she noted is great. She came at this because she was representing non-profits and meeting with people in north and south County about zoning issues and realized they had so many issues in common, but their volunteers were very busy and didn't know each other. However, she knew they could learn from each other. That's when she asked everyone to get together in August of 2007 and within 15-minutes came up with the mission statement. GAN has been growing since then and now has over 150 members including groups like the GSPC, individuals, all the river keepers, and other organizations.

- **GAN Plans and Objectives:** The Growth Action Network involves citizens in the County's planning and advocacy so that all growth will enhance the quality of life now and in the future.

▪ Growth is a central issue and like many jurisdictions Anne Arundel County has experienced rapid growth in the past decades. Growth has not been matched with sufficient infrastructure to support it, resulting in:

- traffic congestion among the worst in the nation
- impairment of all County rivers
- severe air quality conditions
- overcrowding of schools
- loss of farmland and forests
- health of the Chesapeake Bay and its true viability as a resource
- huge unfunded backlogs of needed maintenance of infrastructure

▪ **List of Growth Principles to Guide GAN Activities:** GAN members contact members of the County Council on legislation or policies of concern related to:

- Strengthening infrastructure
- Cleaning up watersheds and waterways
- Reusing existing structures
- Developing transit for AA County
- Planning for workforce housing near jobs, integrated with market housing
- Protecting remaining farms, forests and open space

- GAN Goals:

- Assists communities trying to maintain their quality of life in the face of change by sharing information with members of the organization. GAN is a coalition of individuals and groups that evaluate legislation and County policies that impact growth, its costs and its patterns.

- GAN shares information with its members and others. Not all members are interested in the same issues. Someone may be interested in comprehensive rezoning and someone else may be interested in water quality standards. The GAN as a coalition provides information to put people in touch and traditionally have not taken a position.

- Members share information and work together as needed. Members who have encountered rezoning, variances or subdivisions that may have negative impacts, assist others with these challenges in their neighborhoods. Task groups are formed by GAN when key issues need research and action.

Your financial support of GAN is crucial to GAN's success. Consider sending a contribution to GAN to support these programs and mail to:

GAN c/o Arnold Preservation Council (APC), P.O. Box 852, Arnold, MD 21012 or call 410-544-1454

Your contributions are tax deductible

Join Growth Action Network on line at www.growthaction.net

For further information on becoming a member, contact Ann Fligsten, Coordinator GAN at annfligsten@growthaction.net or call 410-544-1454

- Q&As:

- Landfills: Brad Myers, GSPC Vice President, asked if there were any items for focus? Ms. Fligsten advised that GAN just formed a task force on landfill. She noted that Severna Park has had some success by taking a landfill, redoing it and capping it, in Brittingham which now sits on a landfill. Potentially there will be two new landfills in West County near Piney Orchard and one near lots of new developments. One was approved 20 years but was never opened because it couldn't get a State permit because it had a lot of violations. People moved into Piney Orchard not knowing they were moving next to a potential landfill site. It was not in the papers or press because it was all pending and now it is a hot issue. There is another landfill right there and the community has changed tremendously over the past 20 years and she doesn't know of many residents who would want a landfill next door to them. The task force is looking at whether there are too many private landfills in the County and is doing a study and helping Piney Orchard at the same time. The goal is to paint a picture for the County Council on how many private landfills there are, how many are actually needed, and do we have excess capacity. Ms. Fligsten noted that she doesn't believe Anne Arundel County should be the dumping ground for most of the State, and they understand we have to have them, but don't necessarily want more than their share in the County.

- Training Residents: GAN is working to train residents to go to County Council and administrative hearings and will be conducting an "Advocacy Boot Camp." Participants will learn how to prepare and participate effectively in the Comprehensive Rezoning process and to testify and present on their own at the administrative hearings and also do training. Ms. Fligsten noted that they have lawyers who want to help and she is hopeful that they can get Douglas Hollmann, County Administrative Hearing Officer, to participate.

- Networking and Keeping Informed of Issues: The goal is to train residents to show them how to participate and testify effectively on their own, For example, one of the reasons we need this network is that there is a hot issue currently at Piney Orchard, but after that is resolved if we don't keep the network going and someone else has an issue, they don't have help or knowledge about other residents and issues.

- County Council Votes: Ms. Fligsten also noted that Al Johnston would like her to note that as a County-wide organization we cover the entire County and know that a lot of these issues depend on four votes by the County Council members. We want as many of our members to be from all the surrounding Districts. We are light on people from Glen Burnie and Pasadena. If GSPC delegates know people who want to get involved in some of the GAN projects, please contact GAN at www.growthaction.net or call [410-544-1454](tel:410-544-1454).

- Al Johnston's Support of GAN: Ms. Fligsten noted that as a mentor, coach and leader Al Johnston, has been instrumental to GAN. He came to the first meeting and was very supportive, but he didn't give us all his information because he knew they had to figure out on their own what they needed to be doing. He supported her when they first started, and is the real model of citizen actions, and they are really proud that he has been a member of Growth Action since the very beginning.

- Biggest Growth Issue Delegates are Concerned About: Director Norville noted that too much crowding and growth on existing facilities are outstripping the limited capital and operating budgets for schools, roads and maintaining what currently exists. Also of concern are things like the transportation plan which could include higher densities, more people, and more use of limited facilities. Ms. Fligsten noted that she thinks we are trying to grow our way out of some of the spending problems and doesn't think the pace of growth has been able to pay the bills for the infrastructure and a lot of the current needs. They would like to see the infrastructure in place before growth and may be too much to ask, but more balance is needed so we do not get so far behind on the infrastructure needs of the County.

- Does GAN Keep an Eye on BRAC Situation? Ms. Fligsten advised that GAN has many area members involved in BRAC and are fortunate since they are getting a lot of resources and a lot of planning. They know there is going to be a lot of spill over into other areas.

- BOE Meeting - Developer Provided Schools: Ms. Fligsten noted that she discussed with Brad Myers setting up a meeting with the School Board to discuss what is being done regarding developer provided schools because there is one on the agenda for July 11th dealing with Piney Orchard and none of Piney Orchard's residents knew about it. They requested that the meeting be postponed and it was approved by the BOE. The prime issue is that one of the developers wants to build a school near Piney Orchard, but apparently it is not near the development and it isn't known if it fits within the comprehensive plan or General Development Plan (GDP). GAN believes that they need to get the BOE and County's planning department to work together so the school is built in a good place where a school should be. How much the developer should be involved is an issue that needs to be discussed. Ms. Fligsten noted that where school's go growth comes.

- Monitoring Execution of GDP: Are there any plans to monitor the execution of the GDP and adhere to the rules set up and in effect over the next 10-years? Ms. Fligsten advised that they just received a copy of the Plan from the Planning and Zoning Office and they have to report to the State the progress they are making on the Plan. They think there needs to be changes in the way the planning and rezoning processes were done. As soon as they get over the open space issue they have to work on the execution of the GDP. In the very beginning they had goals to get the GDP to have teeth and they don't know whether it has teeth or not since the Court of Appeals in a prior case said it was only a guideline. The Legislature changed the language and the question now is did they change it enough. If it is no more than a guideline then that's what they have to change first before they do any more planning because if they do all the planning and it's just a guideline and doesn't have to be followed then we are just wasting our time.

- Impact Fees: Was one of the first things GAN took on and resulted in one of the lowest impact fee on new development in the State of Maryland. It is tough to get impact fees to cover schools and roads, and was a big fight, but we got it and then almost lost it because they brought it back again stating that the economy is going south. Ms. Fligsten noted that she doesn't believe there is ever a good time to raise anyone's fees, and they were able to keep the low impact fee which does give us more hope to get some decent money for infrastructure and schools.

(3) Dick Ladd, Councilman – Main Speaker – AAC 2013 Budget Review, Charter History and Review:

Mr. Johnston noted that Councilman Ladd was briefed on some of the GSPC plans and he was asked him to discuss two issues since most of the residents are immigrants to the County including (1) how the budget process works, (2) where the money comes from, and (3) who makes the decision and how do we put it all together. The other situation having come to the County when we still had the old County Commissioners happened fifty years ago this year when 23 delegates from the Severna Park Council went down to the County Commissioners and asked that an apartment community with 16,000 residents on what is now the two Shipley's Choice communities not be built in Severna Park. We got a tie vote and unfortunately had to fight that case all the way to the Court of Appeals. Ultimately Severna Park won and that is why we have the Shipley's Choice homeowner's community instead of 16,000 residents in apartments in Shipley's Choice.

Mr. Johnston introduced Mr. Ladd and noted that he graduated from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, and received an MBA from Tulane University. He is a retired Army Officer, served as a professional staff member on the Senate Appropriations Committee, and was the Deputy Undersecretary of the Army.

Mr. Ladd noted that he just returned from his college reunion which was a milestone and an enjoyable event, and he spent several days in his home town. He also noted that his home town is a small town that is 375 years old, and watching the evolution of these small towns is a very instructive process.

Mr. Ladd noted that he will talk about what he knows about the budget and charter review, and will discuss policies and programs.

- **Policies and Programs:**

- **Policy Side – Comprehensive Rezoning and Grow Plan:** They went through and did comprehensive rezoning which was completed and a lot of it depended on how well the communities who were interested and concerned attended the hearings. Probably had the most District attendees, and what he did was support the growth plan of the existing businesses to keep growth going and keep existing small businesses. Dyna-Splint is moving, growing and building a beautiful campus and this is exactly the kind of things they accomplished.

- **Stormwater Run-off:** The entire district is surrounded by water and the most calls they receive are related to stormwater run-off, marinas, broken pipes and flooding. Bills have been put up to try and raise more funding. Approximately \$950 million is needed and could take up to 10-15 years since some of the maintenance is that far behind. Today started a series of meetings that will go on once a month for the next 4-months to talk through the guts of having a program to raise money for stormwater run-off that is mandated by legislation passed by the State stating that we must have by July 1, 2013 a funding mechanism to deal with stormwater run-off that supports the TMDL reduction to clean up the bay. We are embarking on this and will have 4-months of serious discussion mandated by clean up the bay. It is different than the flush tax and the money will go directly into a protected fund, and has nothing to do with flush, septic or sewer.

- **State Teacher Pension Bill:** The State sent the Council a Teacher Pension Bill and doubled the flush tax and clarified what the Council could and could not do about MOE (maintenance of effort is a state law designed to protect the quality of our children's education by discouraging local governments from shortchanging schools). The result was the Council had to put more money back into the education part of the budget.

In response to a question on how the County has dealt with the \$12 million to pick up teachers' pensions and did things have to be cut, Mr. Ladd noted that in order to come up with the \$12 million shortfall, they needed to come up with about \$15 million to take care of the short fall and add more money for the libraries. They went looking for \$15 million across the County's, and through the Council's own independent scrub came up with \$5 or \$6 million of "fact of life" changes in the budget. When they started, they went to the Board of Education and wanted to go through some of the particular things they wanted and realized they had two \$15 million worth of pots of money from working that money real hard, and the first \$15 million they had already committed and they agreed after discussions with some of the Council members to give \$5 million of their own money to contribute to the fund. The Council then went back and trimmed another \$3-4 million from a variety of construction projects and capital projects and that's how they came up with the \$15 million. The important thing is they went across the entire County to come up with the money to pay the bill.

- **Ended Furloughs in County:** Furloughs in County were a substantial tool to balance the budget and generated \$12-13 million in savings. It was decided that it was not good for the way it was affecting morale in the County offices, and going forward this year there are no longer furloughs in the budget. One thing that had to be implemented to offset this was that there will no longer be pay raises. The School Board is separate and the Council cannot set their pay, but the School Board has also agreed not to do anymore pay raises.

- **Payment of Impact Fees:** In response to a question, Mr. Ladd noted that builders have to pay an impact fee when they go in, and then there is an impact fee for schools. After you build you have to go back and put your money into your impact fee account, and there is a separate process for deciding what that impact money is going to do. What this legislation and other things have permitted is if you go forward and put a building on the ground with a value of "X" the builder can come back and perhaps get credit for paying the impact fee for the school, but can't say exactly how it will work and it is the deal struck by the planning director. Builder has to bring plan to Council for approval and the Council is the only group who sees the builder's plan. Mr. Ladd noted that what he doesn't know is when it becomes visible to the community. What he is told is when there are any kind of series of public meetings on a particular project you can ask whether there will be any public facility constraints or whether there might be a possible 3rd party project to by-pass or stall the constraint. This is also true on roads and he is very concerned because it is very difficult to tell where the constraints at a public facility are going to stand up and fight it. Schools are easy because it is a listing of opening and closing's. Sewer connections are easy because you can see them and measure; it is the same thing with water. In these cases you actually go and buy a holding spot. Previously you didn't have to go and buy a spot on schools but now you know when they are opened and closed and now there is a way around it. It's a process in flux right now and the State is very high on this whole approach as is the Board of Education because it does allow them to cut some deals on their own, but the Council does have a seat at the table.

It was also noted by Maureen Carr-York, that as a point of clarification it might be that we will never see another developer able to add simply classrooms. That's because Broadneck High School was rebuilt in the mid-1990's while she was on the Board of Education. When it was rebuilt to make it big enough to bring in the 9th grade they also built in extra capacity in the common areas so it had a cafeteria and gymnasium that could accommodate the additional classroom space and students that would be in the additional classroom space. Generally speaking County schools do not have that sort of extra capacity, and she would be very surprised if any developer could manage to pull off exactly that arrangement again.

- **Charter Amendments:** Every decade after the centennial census, there is a Commission set up to review the Charter and come forward with proposed recommendations. It has been in place but with Leopold's indictment and one Council member who has been caught up in tax evasion the Commission immediately had a whole series of events occur which illustrated holes and weaknesses in the Charter which have generated a series of 18 to 20 suggested changes to the Charter revision. He will run the ones that are still active and some have more or less died.

- **Conditions for Ruling of Council Members:** Conditions for ruling of Council Members is being rewritten. It will mirror the conditions that exist for the County Executive. It involves moral turpitude, choice of words and whether the judgment and conviction is final. The Council is worried about it because the person doesn't have to step down until the case is run through all its appeals. As fast as the appeal cycle runs a person can be convicted at the very first of their term and continually appeal the conviction of the case and would serve out their term. There is another way that they are writing the words, once a person pleads guilty or is found guilty independent of their right to appeal, the Council has a basis for removal and that's the direction they are moving.

- **Reviewing Process for Filling Vacancies:** Voted several times and still reviewing process for filling vacancies.

- **August Recess:** Authorized Council to have August recess.

- **Clarification of When Passed Legislation Becomes Effective:** When legislation becomes effective is important and if the County Executive does not sign passed legislation within 10 days problems have occurred when the pass date of the legislation occurs and the County Executive has not signed the legislation within 10 days. Therefore there is a need to put in a clarification of when passed legislation becomes effective.

- **Restrict Line Item Veto Authority by County Executive:** There is a resolution that is still before the Council to remove from the County Executive general line item veto authority and restrict line item veto authority to zoning legislation only. GSPC Vice President Myers asked whether the line item veto provision resolution came from the Charter Commission or Council members. Mr. Ladd noted that it came from the Charter Commission and the Council has not yet done its final vote on the line item veto resolution.

- **Adding Felony Conviction as Basis for Removal of County Executive and County Council Members:** Proposed amendments pending that would revise provisions for removal of the County Executive and County Council members for conviction of a felony or failure to perform duties.

- **Board of Appeals and Ethics Commission Terms:** Board of Appeals members are now limited to two 4-year terms. The same time limitation for members of the Ethics Commission is pending, and one member on the Ethics Commission must be a lawyer.

- **Technical Changes Passed on Budget and Other requirements:**

- **Charter Commission Membership:** Increasing membership on the Charter Commission from 5 to 7 members so every district in the County will have a representative.

- **Post Employment Benefits Account and Health Insurance Provisions:** Established account which is important for collecting the money the County is liable for paying the retiree health bills for all employees and the Board of Education. Right now on the government side County has a \$1.2 billion bill and the BOE is a \$1.2 billion bill. By doing this the County can start to accrue the resources to pay these bills rather than rolling forward to succeeding generations since there will come a time when the bill for this will crowd so much out of the budget. Incident to all of this when we go into 2014 with a change of health insurance provisions with exchanges and with a lot of new products that are available for a lot of people in the Medicare age group. The County is finding some very good savings on providing Medicare products that will save the County money on providing the health benefits to retirees regarding Medicare.

- **Special Tax Account for Video Lottery Funds and Adjustment to When County Council Members Terms Start:** These are two remaining items to be addressed.

- **Budget Spending:** This year for 2013 we had \$57 million in additional revenue a little over 4% in growth, \$20 million came from the allowed increase in property tax increases to keep the revenue levels even. There is some erosion of the tax base but most of the erosion is occurring in that part of your bill called "Homestead Exemption." We have not lost a lot of the tax base that the County depends on. The tax revenue for the most part has been quite stable and the County has been very fortunate. There was a 3.1 cent increase in property tax.

The County got \$23 million in income tax increases because taxable income is increasing in the County, and received an additional \$15 million for slots. In the budget even though the County is not totally balanced yet and are still running a structural deficit, there was \$19 million one-time savings from under spending in the prior year budget. That money goes into "Pay Go" into the Capital Budget as required by budget policies. However, the County still has structural deficits. We are eating up our capital on the operating side and falling behind on infrastructure as noted by Ann Fligsten.

The additional savings was used as follows:

- \$5 million to buy back the County furloughs
- \$7 million to buy back the furloughs equivalent to the Police Department and to put 15 more officers on the books
- Bought back furloughs in the Library and upgraded the IT program in the libraries
- \$5 million was put back into the Anne Arundel Community College because the County used some of their savings last year to balance the budget
- Put \$11.5 million for the first payment in the teachers' pension program
- Put more money into health care costs increases
- Funded 14 additional man years for the Department of Public Works so the workers could do road repair work
- On the investment side in the district got \$2 million in dredging. Dredging money is very important.
- Funded opening of new Eastern District Police Station that will go up on Pasadena Road just beyond Pasadena Elementary School near Route 2

- **Schools and Performance:** One of the best and positive things about the community is the outstanding school performance. Summer reading measures the performance of good teachers and raises the performance of the classroom 15%. Under performing teachers, which they can't fire, and the thing they can't quantify is how much good support of involved families make in the performance of good schools. Involvement of families is more determinative in good performance than teachers. Mr. Ladd noted that one of the things he hears from police and fire officers, and teachers are that they feel under appreciated. One of the things he would like communities to think about doing is communicate their appreciation and donate funds to support and recognize outstanding police and fire officers and teachers.

- **Severna Park Elementary:** Four additional kindergarten rooms and upgrades to the access installed.

- **Additional Teachers:** Will get an additional 100 "in classroom" teachers. Have gotten additional teachers at Severna Park, Jones, Benfield, and Shipley's Choice Elementary schools. Two schools in Broadneck will get additional teachers.

- **Classroom Size Increases:** The School Board funded 100 additional teachers and the average class room size is 26 that's 26 additional students will be brought in and be able to support at a moderate student-teacher population ratio. During the time since additional classroom teachers have been added, the classroom population has gone up by 3,000. The BOE tells the County Council that they are expecting to receive another 3 to 4,000 additional students in the County in the next several years. The County is facing about 80,000 students in our school system up from 71-72,000. The pressure on teachers and classrooms will continue.

- **Severna Park High School Construction Funds:** Last year the Council voted to put the High School construction out to 2016-17, and this year the Council agreed to have it built in calendar years 2015-16. The problem they faced with the High School is it is to be built in 24-months at a cost of \$100 million, and is \$50 million in a 12-month period. The pattern in which money has been coming out for high schools is about \$35 million per high school each year, and they have been struggling to find a way to get \$50 million in hand at one time, and what that meant was they would try to get money in one year and hold to the next year. The pressure from getting elementary schools on line is so great that he couldn't get the votes to say that he was going to take all \$50 million in 2014 as the County Executive suggested. What he had to do was get about \$15-20 million next year in 2014 and combine it with \$35 million in 2015 so that he got enough money at that point to have \$50 million to go on contract to start the school on July 1, 2014. Construction will start as soon as the budget is signed for the year that puts the additional \$35 million in the budget so contractors know the money is there. There is enough money in the budget from the previous year and as soon as the budget is signed end of May 2014 the contractors can start doing some work on the ground.

- What will happen first: Football-play field will be completely cleared and the contractor will spend 60-90 days putting in an elaborate stormwater management process so that every drop of water that falls on that area stays there. There will be a substantial engineering effort to get the drainage completed, and during that time they will finish all permits, and get everybody ready to go which will take about 6 months.

- Estimated Construction Dates: Will start vertical construction about the first of January 2015, and build in CY 2015-2016. On the first of January 2017 will move from the old building into the new building. Then there will be another 12-month period and an additional \$10-15 million spent to take down the exiting building and go back and do more dirt and stormwater run-off on ground and put in place the new sports field. Basically there will be three phases including: (1) all the dirt work and stormwater management, (2) building new high school and moving into new building, (3) taking down the old high school and do more stormwater management to build new sports field.

- Additional Votes Needed to Protect the High School: There will be two more votes to go through to protect the high school that will occur in 2014 and 2015, and will occur before the next election.

- MGT-Strategic Facilities Utilization Study: The MGT study is the plan the school board has on the sequence for the development of all high schools. There has been so much change in where people live and where high schools need to be. It is expected that the school board will review and look at where the densities and where the classroom needs are and start to change the priorities. The good news is that because Benfield Elementary has been designed it will not be affected. However Benfield will not get started until the High School is pretty well finished. All the rest of the schools will tend to get moved around based upon the density. From the Severna Park district given the money is in place for Benfield, all the schools will be in pretty good shape. Jones Elementary and Severna Park Elementary are very old, but both are working, and all the schools in the district are a lot better than virtually in any other district in the County and that fact is not lost on a lot of the Counties.

- Two Top Elementary Schools Listed in The Capital: Mr. Johnston noted that the two top elementary schools noted in tonight's Capital were Severna Park and Benfield Elementary and were rated the top in the County.

- Formulating Budget for Next Year: Mr. Ladd noted he will talk about what he thinks he knows and how they will formulate the budget for next year:

- Take Home Pay, Pay Negotiations and Pay Compressions: 75-80% of the Budget will go to people. There are 13 Unions in the County to deal with, and 2/3 Unions at the Board of Education that all have to be negotiated. There are some clauses that say if anyone else gets a raise they get one. In some of our unions in the police and fire departments there is pay compression. If someone wants to move from being a sergeant to a lieutenant or lieutenant to a captain they take a pay cut, and that's what is causing the police department to advertise outside the County because the current police officers won't apply for these vacancies because they have to take a pay cut. This has to be fixed. There is pay compression occurring in our schools because they are not paying the step increases that teachers seek. He has two teachers who live in Arnold who come to him every year and tell him they can go to an adjacent county because they have been teaching in the County for a long time without a pay increase, and can get \$10,000 in additional pay, but the teachers he talks to don't want to do that. The last thing we want is for talented and experienced people to go someplace else over pay increases and we can't let that happen. We have to work on this and fix it.

- Health Care Costs Increasing - Pay and Teachers – Health Care Insurance Starting in 2014: No matter where you live, every week in the paper they talk about how different cities are trying to figure out the health care cost increases. Every week there is another City or County going bankrupt in the country. The teachers' pension requirements go up another \$5 million in 2014 and then again in 2015, and another \$22 to \$23 million per year will have to be paid into the teacher's pension fund. Independent of how many items unfold about health care, today there are things in place. In the State of Maryland they will stand up health insurance exchanges starting in 2014. This will affect how people's ability to get insurance rolls up, and there will be different insurance packages that have the potential to reduce the health care costs in the County.

- West County Infrastructure Growth: When you look at where the growth is occurring it is in West County, and most of the needs are in West County.

- Stormwater Run-Off: As previously mentioned, work will start effective July 1, 2013, thanks to the State legislature.

- Transportation – Bay Bridge – Lanes Increase – Relief on Bay Bridge Traffic: Mr. Ladd noted that having looked at the whole transportation planning initiative, the one thing that strikes him is that it brings forth the importance of the Route 301 – Rt. 50 corridor which is the corridor through the central part of the County.

They want to run four lanes off of Rt. 50 and run the three lanes onto Rt. 97 into four lanes running between that intersection and the Bay Bridge. Also have the Severn River Bridge with three lanes and maybe far off in the future will get the reversible lane in there someday. One thing that has occurred to him is there will be no relief for Bay Bridge traffic. They can't decide where or whether or not to put a third bridge or span. The only thing that will bring relief is if they decide to put a third span someplace else and get it built.

- **Impact on Density in Severna Park:** One thing that we need to have a parallel discussion on is finding out if there is support for having a redevelopment district proposed for the Severna Park Village to get tax incentives for people to deal with certain things like digital parking spaces and different amenities so the village looks like a nice place to live and shop. Basically this will mean finding a way to put tax incentives out there so aspects of the Severna Park Village concept, as adopted in the Small Area Plan, could be pushed forward.

- **Things to Watch Out For and Priorities:** Mr. Ladd noted the following items are important and a priority:
 - **Workforce:** Have to maintain a healthy workforce. Cannot afford to lose anymore senior, experienced EPW workers especially in the water and sewer areas. Mr. Ladd also noted that Dr. Maxwell deserves immense credit for the outstanding job he does developing and bringing the school principals on board, and we cannot afford to lose them.

- **Retiree Health Care:** After the Charter Revision is approved, which opens up the trust fund, we have to do a lot of things to figure out how we are going to deal with cost increases, cost sharing and funding. The Council will have to dedicate itself to implementing the program, but before this can be done will have to get an approved Charter revision to protect the money after it is approved.

- **Increasing Small Businesses in the County:** To keep the County viable have to start thinking about how do we get small businesses to come to the District. Everything he has read in the last couple of months says that small businesses develop jobs. If you want to get jobs here that pay well so people will want to live here in the County, you have to make it easier for small businesses to come to the County. One thing proposed is investing and giving small businesses tax credit for things that we are receiving tax revenue for to get small businesses to come here and get started bringing high tech jobs here. At this point, he believes it would be a pretty good bet for bringing jobs into the County and it is something that needs to be thought through.

- **Septic Systems Supporting Large Communities:** The other item that needs to have discussion is that elsewhere in this district there are septic systems supporting very large communities. It is known that some of these systems are sources of pollution when the water table rises and it rains. We have got to replace the septic systems and it is not something the County has to fund. The problem in doing this in a way that is going to keep the neat and clean Bay thing, is that it will cost more than most people can afford to pay even if we can find a way to finance for 30 to 40 years. This is something we have to start to look at: how do we make people who live in the County and are willing to step up and make a commitment to fix their septic system, find a way that is affordable.

Public Works Committee – Dan Nataf, Director Emeritus: Mr. Nataf provided the following information and asked delegates for their comments:

- Traffic engineering project completion: Following projects are completed as confirmed by Traffic Engineering: (1) crosswalks restriping on Evergreen and Cedar and Evergreen and Hattan, (2) speed bumps on Riggs, (3) repaving on Jumpers Hole. Restriping of Whites Road has not been done as confirmed by President Poland, and Mr. Nataf will follow up with traffic engineering on the complete of the restriping.

- Effect of budget shortfall on traffic engineering: Mr. Nataf noted that you can hire a hundred teachers, but the traffic engineering is down to nine people and there apparently is going to be an additional retirement of one additional person and they will be down to 8 people. When they can't fill positions in their Department because of a hiring freeze they can't complete the road projects in a timely manner. Mr. Ladd noted that money has been put into the budget to get 14 more additional people.

- Storm Debris Pick Up: A delegate asked whether there were any plans to help pick up the debris for recycling other than the normal pick-ups. Mr. Ladd noted that at this moment the answer is no but they are working on this, and Diane Jennings, Legislative Assistant to Mr. Ladd, advised that there were currently no plans according to DPW, but they are trying to put pressure on them for special assistance.

Updated Storm Debris Services Information: County Executive Leopold has approved additional storm debris removal assistance which may be requested through the Office of Community and Constituent Services (OCCS).

For dumpers contact the OCCS at 410-222-1795 or by email to CCServices@aacounty.org.

Visit <http://www.aacounty.org/DPW/Highways/StormDebris.cfm> for complete information regarding services provided.

Education Committee – Brad Myers, Director: Based on discussions during presentations by speakers Ann Fligsten and Councilman Ladd, Mr. Myers had no additional information to provide.

Environment Committee Report: Submitted by Ann Jackson & Ed Krause, Watershed Stewards. Ann Jackson was absent. Susan O'Brien, GSPC, noted that the funds noted in the Report are use it or lose funds. President Poland also noted that another item that is critical in this report is if you go to the July 11th Pizza Night at Ledo's and mention Magothy River Association a portion of the sales will go toward oyster reef restoration (Severna Park Store). Copies of the following monthly report were available to delegates on the entry table:

- **Severn River Association**

www.severnriver.org

SRA Monthly Meeting 7 PM Tues 17 July 2012, featuring a new film "SHELLSHOCKED: *Saving Oysters to Save Ourselves*" at a special location, the [Annapolis Maritime Museum, 723 Second St, Annapolis, MD 21403](http://www.annapolismaritimemuseum.org). It describes efforts to preserve wild oyster reefs by scientists, government officials, artists and environmentalists. Chris Judy, DNR's Manager of the Marylanders Grow Oysters Program, will comment and provide an update of the MGO Program.

- **Bay Restoration Septic Fund**

Anne Arundel County Department of Health has a grant to locally administer the Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) program. The BRF is a State-supported program that provides funding to replace existing septic tanks with nitrogen-reducing technology. The units reduce the amount of harmful nutrients, such as nitrogen, that septic systems discharge into the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Grants are available for septic systems in the Critical Area and failing septic systems outside the Critical Area. Call Ed Peters at the Department of Health 410-222-7324 for more information.

- **Watershed Audit: Road, Stream and Shoreline Survey**

On Wednesday, July 11th, a workshop on this topic will be held at the **Annapolis Branch** of the Anne Arundel County library. During this workshop you will be shown how to identify pollution sources by driving watershed roads, surveying streams and cruising shorelines. The workshop will run from 9:30 am to Noon. To register for the free workshop go to: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/997BNWX>

- **Magothy River Association**

www.magothyriver.org

MRA's Pizza Night at Ledo's is Wednesday, July 11, 2012. Mention MRA and a portion of the sales will go toward oyster reef restoration. (Severna Park Store)

Police-Community Relations Report: Julie Krause – Chair. No report.

Greater Severna Park Chamber of Commerce: Matt Wyble, Chamber board member, provided the following information:

- *4th of July Parade:* Mr. Wyble thanked everyone who supported the parade, and President Poland thanked the Chamber for hosting the parade and noted that it was a fantastic parade.

- *Fall Events:* There are a number of three day events coming up this fall and he will be sure to include on the Chamber's web page next month since the Chamber is taking July off.

GSPC Zoning/Legislation Agenda and Actions: Al Johnston, Vice President for Public Affairs, noted that the first item on the Zoning/Legislation Agenda is the Draft Corridor Growth Management Plan, and Maureen Carr York is on the Committee which met last night to consider a 265 page report. Mr. Johnston asked Ms. York to give a quick overview of the Report.

- *Overview of Draft Corridor Growth Management Plan:* Ms. York noted that most of the issues were discussed before and she isn't sure when they will post all of the Report on the website. If anyone wants to read the Report please let her know and she will provide her copy. The summary of the Report is very similar to what it was before when she discussed at the June 12th GSPC meeting and she provided the following information:

- *Big Severna Park Impact on Ritchie Highway and Benfield:* On Benfield, had to beat back a couple suggestions including a round-about in the middle of Benfield Road, and it is out of the Plan. Still in the Plan is the widening of the entire length of Ritchie Highway, and it will be a bigger and noisier highway than it currently is.

- *Transit Oriented Development and Density*: The big thing sitting in the middle of the plan is still transit oriented development and density right in the heart of Severna Park. In order to support rapid bus transport, what they are proposing is to have what is now Severna Park Market Place where Kohl's is, and that entire block and quite possibly all of where Park Plaza is as well, become a high density housing and commercial area. They tell us the closest thing like it in the County right now is Parole Town Center. Our business community is taking it very seriously and looking at it. They have met a couple of times with the Chamber of Commerce and will talk about it again tomorrow morning at the 8:00 am breakfast meeting with the Chamber at Ledo's, and everyone is welcome to attend. Our communities are also carefully considering it.

- *Comments on the Plan* - Ms. York noted that what she did last night was to incorporate into the comments on the Plan the Greater Severna Park Council's comments, and also incorporated the sentiments expressed by the Chamber of Commerce which is that we need a whole lot of information in a timely manner before we take a position on anything this drastic for the future. With those caveats and a few other minor changes, she voted to endorse the Plan with caution, and it's going to go forward rather slowly. Pat Lynch, President of the Broadneck Council, was with them last night and has been very active on behalf of the Broadneck Council community, as has the Arnold Preservation Council. We are trying very hard to just keep control over all of this so that whatever is done going forward we have a chance to make sure that the things we like about Severna Park remain and we don't necessarily get turned into something we might not want to be.

In response to a question, Ms. York noted that the Plan is being called a study, and is a part of the Plan which will be completed in 2014 for the most part. A little piece will be added in 2015, and they have asked all members to stay on board through 2015 to see it through. She will keep everyone informed as they progress through it and thanked everyone for their involvement.

GSPC Zoning/Legislation Agenda 7-10-12: Mr. Johnston summarized the following items, and noted that Dick Ladd did an outstanding job summarizing the resolutions tonight. He also noted that in the Hearing Officer and Board of Appeals section all the cases are on the Agenda. When he reads the case and digests it, he looks at the map and takes a wild guess as to which community it is. He expects corrections if he has any of the communities incorrect and that's what we do at this meeting, and he will continue to do this. He also does a monthly check on the court cases which merely are pending to establish the rights of the GSPC in zoning matters. He also advised delegates that the letter to Mr. George Cardwell, Administrator, Planning and Zoning Transportation Division, in response to his request for comments, contained the Board's collective decision on the Draft Corridor Growth Management Plan and the role that the Plan is to play in Transportation Planning in Anne Arundel County which was attached to the June 27th Board Minutes for distribution. It is the first time we have done this in a long time but will continue to do it, and will follow Maureen Carr York as they move forward. Ultimately all of this will go into the General Development Plan. There are 4-pages in the traffic section of the GDP which will get changed. In the letter to George Cardwell, he points out that existing zoning is incompatible with traffic oriented facility. So essentially would change the comprehensive zoning 10-years from now, at least it is 10-years away, and he will keep following it. He will also take a look at the Draft Growth Management Plan Report and discuss at next month's GSPC meeting.

GSPC Zoning/Legislation Agenda 7-10-12, Boldface=Your Attention, Regular Typeface= Information/follows:

Legislation, Planning, Zoning and Capital Projects:

Draft Corridor Growth Management Plan, Executive Summary, and GSPC Comments following Public Meeting at SPMS 6-19-12. GSPC Board letter in opposition to "transit oriented" facility in Severna Park.

Bill 15-12 Zoning-Open Space, Signed by County Executive. Planning & Zoning Director, Larry Tom, presented his concept to GAN Leaders 5-16-12. 354 Parcels, 7 undeveloped. Proposed overlay technique. Reviewed at GAN meeting 5-17-12. Reviewed with ARPOA 6-8-12. GAN following the Tom technique.

Bill 47-12 Adequate Public Facilities. Provides formal procedures to comply with requirements to obtain impact fee credits for education and road facilities. Passed 7-2-12.

Bill 48-12 An Ordinance concerning: Deferral of County Real Property Tax for Elderly or Disabled Homeowners. Passed 7-2-12.

Bill 52-12 Licenses–Swimming Pools –Automated external defibrillator devices – (Connor's Law). Passed 7-2-12.

Resolution 35-12 – Resolution proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to provide that the Charter Revision Commission be comprised citizens that is equal to the number of councilmanic districts in the County, with each member of the County Council making one appointment. Passed 7-2-12.

Resolution 40-12 – Resolution proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to provide for an August legislative recess, by a majority vote of the County Council. Passed 7-2-12.

Resolution 36-12 – Resolution proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to limit the number of terms for the members of the Board of Appeals to two consecutive terms. Passed 7-2-12.

Resolution 32-12 – Resolution proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to revise provisions for removal of the County Executive for conviction or failure to perform duties. Pending.

Resolution 33-12 – Resolution proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to provide for the removal of a member of the County Council for conviction of certain crimes or failure to perform duties. Pending.

Resolution 37-12 – Resolution proposing an amendment to the Charter of Anne Arundel County to require that one member of the Ethics Commission is a member of the Maryland Bar. Pending.

Administrative Hearing Officer, Board of Appeals, MDE, Corps of Engineers, Complaints:

Webpage for AHO: <http://www.aacounty.org/AdminHear/Calendar.cfm>, Webpage for Board of Appeals: <http://www.aacounty.org/BdofAppeals/Calendar.cfm>

2012-0129-V B. Weisenberger, 7-12-12 9:45AM, 104 Sabrina Ln, porch setbacks (Sabrina Park).

CORRECTION to minutes 7-10-12:

21012-0140-V B. Lawton 7-24-12 10:30AM, 612 Pin Oak Rd, variance to perfect shed setback (Harlequin)

2012-0132-V M Baldiswieler, 7-31-12 10:30AM, 103 Trailing Ivy Ln., disturbance steep slopes & buffer (Jones)

2012-0161-V D. Allen 8-7-12 9:30AM, 102 Sycamore Rd, porch addition setback, (West Severna Park)

2012-0136-V J. Lighthizer, 8-7-12 10:30AM, 1 Boone Trail, addition setback, (Linstead)

2012-0157-V S. Medile, 8-9-12 10:00AM, 758 Ticonderoga, “perfect” accessory (shed) setback, (OSP/IA)

2012-0139-R Hamilton Marina Properties, Inc., 8-9-12 11:00AM, North Drive, Rezoning from R5 to MA2 (Lower Magothy Beach) *Board Resolution to appear.*

2012-0149-V J. Burns, 8-21-12 10:00AM, 14 Cedar Point Rd, Critical Area impervious surface, addition setback, (Linstead)

Board of Appeals Deliberations, 7-26-12, 5:30PM BA29 & 30-V M. Horn & R. Hubbard (Round Bay)

BA 32-12V R. Powell, 8-14-12 6:30PM (2011-0303-V) 149 Boone Trail, pier & moorings setback (Linstead)

BA 35-12V G. Elder, 8-16-12 5:30PM, 208 Birch Ct, additions porch, garage, setbacks, steep slopes (W. Severna Park)

NOTE CHANGES IN ABOVE SCHEDULE FROM THAT PRESENTED ON 7-10-12.

Circuit Court Cases (Clerk of Court 222-1431) Court of Special Appeals Cases, Clerk 410 260-1450, Court of Appeals, Clerk 410-260-1500

Case 02C11162546 (BA 3-07V & 4-07V) D. Clickner, Board granted variances. Appealed by Magothy River Association & Chesapeake Bay Foundation. 6-2-12 Oral Arguments, Pending Order-Opinion.

Case 02C11164569 Harwood Civic Assn. et al v. Anne Arundel County, Declaratory Judgment (Requirement that zoning changes conform to the GDP, Spot Zoning) 6-27-12 Memorandum by Defendant.

Case 02C11165665 Pamela Buckenmaier, et al v. Key School, et al, Declaratory Judgment (Violation of Covenants) 7-2-12 Designation of Defendant’s Expert Witnesses.

Pre-submission Meetings, Subdivisions, (www.aacounty.org/LandUse/CalendarCommMtg.cfm)

None in Severna Park.

C:\gspc\agenda\zlagenda\zlagenda 7-10-12, Al Johnston 410 647-1380, j202gspc@verizon.net

Old/Unfinished Business: No report.

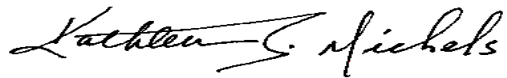
New Business: No report.

Next GSPC Meeting Dates:

- Board of Directors Meeting: **Wednesday, July 25, 2012 – 7:30 pm – Severna Park Library**
- General Meeting: **Tuesday, August 14, 2012 – 7:30 pm – Severna Park Library**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Very respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen J. Michels". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Kathleen J. Michels, GSPC Secretary – July 25, 2012