

Executive Board Meeting Minutes
March 30, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

President Gregory Intoccia called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. GOCA representatives, alternates, invited guests and members of the public introduced themselves.

Intoccia asked for a motion to approve the February 14, 2017 minutes. Matt Zaborsky made a motion to approve the minutes. Dave Miller seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Intoccia asked for a motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting. Ruth Laughner made a motion to approve the agenda. Matt Zaborsky seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jim Smith introduced Kevin Johnson, Vice Chair of the Olney Civic Fund. Johnson announced that a golf outing is being added to Olney Days this year. The Olney Golf Classic will be held on Monday May 22, 2017. He asked the delegates to tell their HOAs of the event which will help to fund Olney Days and the Olney Civic Fund.

**ISSUES FACING MONTGOMERY COUNTY AND THE WAY FORWARD –
COUNTY EXECUTIVE ISIAH LEGGETT**

President Greg Intoccia introduced County Executive Isiah Leggett.

Leggett began his speech with a presentation on the County Executive's FY18 Recommended Budget Briefing where he discussed the parameters on how the decisions were made about the \$5.4M budget in Montgomery County.

The County Executive took into account the following 8 priorities when he developed the budget:

- 1) A responsive and accountable County Government
- 2) Affordable housing in an inclusive community
- 3) An effective and efficient transportation network
- 4) Children prepared to live and learn

- 5) Healthy and sustainable communities
- 6) Safe streets and secure neighborhoods
- 7) A strong and vibrant economy
- 8) Vital living for all of our residents

Leggett mentioned Montgomery County’s open budget as an example of transparent government. The budget is available to everyone at montgomerycountymd.gov/openbudget. The information about the budget on this website is interactive, accessible, printable, shareable, and customizable. Leggett stated that Montgomery County is the most transparent jurisdiction in Maryland.

The County Executive continued the presentation with a fiscal update. He stated that Montgomery County is AAA bond rated by Standard & Poor’s, Moody’s, and Fitch. The expenditures in the FY18 budget of \$5.4M are allocated as follows:

Montgomery County Public Schools	46.2%
Public Safety	11.3%
Debt Service	7.5%
General Government	6.7%
Non-Departmental	6.2%
Montgomery County College	5.7%
Health & Human Services	5.6%
Transportation	4.1%
Park and Planning	2.7%
Environment	2.3%
Libraries, Culture & Recreation	1.7%

He then discussed that the revenue comes from the following sources:

Property Tax	31.9%
Income Tax	28.1%
Intergovernmental	20.0%
Charges for Services	6.3%
Other Taxes	5.8%
Fines & Miscellaneous	4.5%
Transfer & Recordation Tax	3.3%

Leggett indicated that one of his proudest accomplishments is that he has closed \$3.5 billion in budget shortfalls over 11 years. He said that he took the following actions to close the gap:

- 1) Withheld steps and general wage adjustments
- 2) Required increased employee contributions to retirement and health benefit plans
- 3) Maintained MCPS at Maintenance of Effort level or below for six years
- 4) Reduced the number of County employees by over 10% and maintained a lower per capita employee ratio (still below the FY 06 level)
- 5) Slowed the rate of growth in expenditures from double digit annual percentage growth prior to FY08 to an average of 2.7% over the last 10 years

Leggett discussed the following other accomplishments which he explained help make sure Montgomery County is solvent for tomorrow:

- 1) Increased reserves by year from \$200M in FY07 to \$457M in FY18
- 2) Decreased the unemployment rate to 3.4% in 2016
- 3) Increased required retiree health trust contribution from 1.3% in 2009 to 27.8% in 2018

After the presentation on the budget, Leggett discussed the following issues that he views are important to Montgomery County:

The first issue is the minimum wage. Leggett opposed increasing the minimum wage in Montgomery County to \$15 per hour because he felt that the legislation got us there too soon, it did not provide ample protection for younger employees, and it did not study how the County would be impacted by such an increase. The minimum wage will increase to \$11.50 per hour in July which is still well above the national average. The County Executive stated that it would cost Montgomery County an extra \$26 - \$30M to increase the minimum wage to \$15 per hour. He explained that the County does not have the money to pay for that kind of an increase. He also said that very few counties have a \$15 minimum wage. He vetoed the legislation to see if some of his concerns could be addressed.

The next issue that he discussed was immigration and the Trust Act. He indicated that in Montgomery County a person cannot be held beyond their official release date. The County can give the public the names of the people turned over to federal authorities. Leggett conveyed that he opposed the Trust Act because he does not want to place a label on Montgomery County and have people think that we are a "Sanctuary" jurisdiction.

President Intoccia opened the floor for questions.

Michael Cullingford, a GOCA delegate from The Reserve at Fairhill, asked for the County Executive's assistance in addressing speeding on Wickham Road. The Department of Transportation did a speed study in September 2016 which showed that there was excessive speeding on Wickham Road. DOT wants to install concrete blocks on the portion of Wickham Road that is part of the subdivision. However, the HOA would like to have speed humps installed instead of concrete blocks. Cullingford said that he cannot get any movement by DOT. Leggett said that he will look into the issue and Joy from his office will get back in touch with The Reserve at Fairhill's HOA.

Lee Lofthus asked the County Executive what efforts are being taken to mitigate future property tax increases. Leggett commented that the 8.7% increase in property taxes last year was not his recommendation. The County Council increased the budget more than he had recommended. Property taxes and recordation fees were increased to make up the difference in the budget. He promised that property taxes would not be increased above the charter limits this year and next year.

Lofthus also asked for Leggett's perspective on crime in Montgomery County. Leggett stated that he has added 128 police officers in Montgomery County while he has been in office. He added 13 police officers this year. While there has been an increase in gang related activity in Aspen Hill and by the Lake Forest Mall, overall crime in the county has gone down. The increase in police officers was addressed in his budget for FY 18.

Sharon Dooley asked how Montgomery County will be impacted by the proposed Federal budget. Since 47,000 federal employees live in Montgomery County, Leggett stated that the impact of the Federal budget could be devastating to the County if pay and job status are altered. In order for President Trump to reduce the budget by 5-6% without having an impact on the Department of Defense, the President would likely need to reduce the budget by 7-8% at, for instance, NOAA, NIST, NIH, FDA, and other resource and related industries. The County Executive stated that he is very concerned because these types of proposed reductions could change people's spending habits.

Jim Smith thanked the County Executive for putting the planning for the Town Commons and Civic Center in the CIP budget. Leggett stated that he feels that the Town Commons and Civic Center are very much needed and that they will be good for the Olney community.

Helene Rosenheim stated that when her two grandsons play soccer at the fields by the middle school, there are no bathroom facilities since the schools are locked. Leggett stated that he will look into this item since the fields are used on a regular basis.

Joe Corbett asked for further explanation on why Leggett opposed the minimum wage increase. Corbett stated that he does not agree with the argument about the cost of the minimum wage increase. Corbett disagrees with the County reserve funds going up so much when a living wage is not being provided to people. The County Executive explained that keeping the reserves at the level in the budget saves us money since we can maintain our AAA bond rating. He said that we will need the reserves to cover losses if the proposed Federal budget gets passed and has a negative impact on Montgomery County. Leggett also stated that we have created or preserved 59,000 affordable housing units in Montgomery County. He said that it would cost the county an additional \$33M each year to increase the minimum wage to \$15 per hour. In order to maintain our AAA bond rating, we need to have our reserves at 10%. They are currently at 8.9%. Since the County has demonstrated each year that we are increasing our reserves, we have been able to keep our AAA rating.

President Greg Intoccia mentioned the Olney Manor Recreational Park Gate Closure issue which is very important to the Olney community. Park & Planning wants to close the gate because there has been too much cut-through traffic. He requested the County Executive's assistance to set up a meeting with that would include appropriate persons from GOCA, MCDOT, and MCPS to have a no-turn-left sign installed coming out of Farquhar Middle School or other appropriate measure to avoid having a serious accident at Batchellors Forest Road and 97. Joy from the County Executive's office will set up the meeting.

Billy Becker asked if the County will get out of the liquor business. Leggett stated that he would like to get out of the liquor business, but the County receives \$30M from it and the County needs the money. He commented that he took the County out of Economic Development. He stated that he will manage the County's finances in a responsible way.

County Executive Leggett concluded the presentation by thanking all of us at GOCA for our civic involvement. He will be happy to address any additional questions we may have. President Greg Intoccia thanked Leggett and the staff for the presentation.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

OFFICERS/COMMITTEES/LIAISON REPORTS

Public Policy & Community Affairs Committee (PP&CAC)

For the PP&CAC report, Intoccia mentioned that the property tax credit was passed. It applies to residents of Montgomery County aged 65 and older and have owned the dwelling for at least 40 consecutive years or are retired veterans. The bill goes into effect 7/1. Eligible residents need to apply by 4/1 each year (9/1 this year).

Membership

Intoccia stated that 32 of our HOA members have paid their dues. 3 HOAs are outstanding in their dues payment.

Transportation Committee Report

Intoccia stated that the Transportation Committee will have a meeting on April 5th. The following issues will be discussed:

- 1) Olney Manor Park gate closure for Batchellors Forest Road traffic exiting onto Georgia Avenue Southbound.
- 2) Commuter bus service from Olney to Glenmont Metro
- 3) Safe and continuous bicycle/pedestrian access North-South-East-West of Olney to Brookeville-Norbeck-Ashton-Laytonsville
- 4) New traffic circle on Old Baltimore Road
- 5) Cars backed up onto Georgia Avenue Southbound at new Dunkin Doughnuts
- 6) Reduce ICC-BWI bus service by MTA from ICC parking lot to BWI
- 7) North High Street connection onto Morningwood
- 8) Deteriorating conditions of Olney roads, sidewalks and curbs with debris buildup resulting in weed growth, etc.

Intoccia asked that the GOCA delegates provide their input to Emmet Tydings, Chair of the Transportation Committee.

Awards

Greg Intoccia commented that the GOCA Awards Ceremony on March 19, 2017 was a very successful event. It was very well attended and went very smoothly. Barbara Falgicno did a great job being the MC of the event. Many elected officials attended the event.

Correspondence Report

There was no correspondence report since Jackie Benn was unable to attend the meeting.

Mid County Citizens Advisory Board

Greg Intoccia stated that the Board is continuing to have discussions on a Glenmont to Silver Spring bikeway. They are looking at alternative paths for the bikeway. They are also going to provide their input on the FY18 budget which will be reviewed by the County Council. They are also reviewing the Trust Act and a proposed bill by the County for loans for small businesses.

Olney Town Center Advisory Committee

Lydia Rappolt stated that the next step is a charrette which is a Town Commons Community Planning Forum where information will be gathered from the public. A public forum is scheduled for Saturday May 20, 2017 during Olney Days at the large meeting room in the Olney Library from 10:30 am through 4:30 pm. Staff from the Department of Planning Services will be at the library to give the public an opportunity to share their opinion about the Town Commons. OTCAC is also looking into having a table at Rock the Lot. Kathy Curtis stated that they want as many people as possible to come to the library to express their opinion. There will be light refreshments. At the next GOCA meeting, they will give the Delegates information to share with their HOAs. Jim Smith mentioned that he has held meetings with five of the stakeholders. Some of the common viewpoints from the stakeholders is the need for green open space, facilities, and utilities. Greg Intoccia stated that he is concerned that the land and the facility are being examined separately. He feels that they need to be considered together. Jim Smith responded that the Department of Planning Services needs to hear that concern from the community. Joe Corbett asked if potential land has been identified. Jim Smith replied that potential land has not been identified. The needs will be identified first.

Chamber of Commerce

There was no update from the Chamber of Commerce.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, a motion was submitted to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Stacy Levine, Recording Secretary

In attendance:

GOCA Officers

Greg Intoccia, President – Ashley Hollow; Billy Becker, 1st Vice President; David Miller, 2nd Vice President; Stacy Levine, Recording Secretary - The Reserve at Fair Hill; Robert Hambrecht, Treasurer – Williamsburg Village

GOCA Delegates and Alternates

Judy Broseker (Brookeville Knolls), Lydia Rappolt (Camelback Village), Kathy Curtis (Lake Hollowell), Gervais Crouch (Norbeck Chase Townhouse), Matthew Bernhard (Norbeck Grove), Matt Zaborsky (Norbeck Meadows), Lee Lofthus (Oatland Farm), Jim Smith (Oatland Farm), Diana Littlefield (Olney Acres), Jay Feinberg (Olney Oaks), Michael Cullingford (The Reserve at Fair Hill), Alden English (SEROCA), Aleka Kapatou (Tanerra), Hilary Phillips Rogers (Victoria Springs), Sharon Dooley (Village of James Creek), Ruth Laughner (Williamsburg Village), Joe Corbett (Williamsburg Village).

Invited Guests

County Executive Isiah Leggett
Scott Coble, Budget Manager, Office of Management and Budget

Public

Elizabeth Liftus (Norbeck Hills), Kevin Johnson (Vice Chair of the Olney Civic Fund)